A RELIGION*less* WORLD

Suresh Kumar Soni

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A RELIGIONLESS WORLD

INTRODUCTION

Imagine, a world without religions
There comes a time when the world has to choose between
'Religious Beliefs' and 'Spiritual Realities'

AND, now that time has come, to liberate the world from all rigid and redundant religions and promote a universal non-creedal wisdom, based on time-tested spiritual values, laws of nature and ethics, which separate 'Spiritual Reality' from 'Religious Beliefs' with the intent to transform human life completely for the greater good of people, society, nations and the world.

And, now that time has come, to know that the human mind cannot perceive the indescribable 'Absolute' which is intuitively grasped, even though 'Relativity' implies the possibility that the 'Absolute' exists as 'Cosmic Consciousness' or God, Allah, or Ishwar. Yet, the relative reality is quite different from absolute reality. After all, there is no mystery here on earth or any reasoning there in the sky.

AND, now that time has come, to reveal the power of innate 'Spiritual Nature', present yet hidden in each human being as 'Consciousness', the eternal essence of our cosmic connection with the ultimate universal reality, a vivid sense of an all-pervading 'Presence', set in the truth, awareness and bliss, a state of total harmony and overall happiness.

AND, now that time has come, to promote the wisdom of rectitude, of ethical values and the fine human qualities human beings are born to live for, as 'Spiritual Beings', and trigger a transition to higher stages of human evolution, from 'Reason' to 'Spirituality' and from personal consciousness to impersonal consciousness, nurtured naturally by the laws of nature.

And, now that time has come, to discern there is 'Something' in us that can 'Be' without us, and will 'Be' after us, as the unborn, undying, changeless 'Consciousness', a mystical dimension which is not the mind nor the body but 'Seer-ship' that stays silent like the sky, and still like the lake, witnessing the mysteries of the unknowable eternity, surging to lift human awareness to a higher level of cosmic experience.

And, now that time has come, to know when the 'Mind' drops, consciousness alone prevails. Body, mind, ego are mortal and die. Consciousness is immortal, it never dies. Outwardly, all humans look different but inwardly all humans are one, united by the integration of cosmic consciousness which ties the whole humanity with a natural bond of human-hood.

AND, now that time has come, to create awareness of one's 'Self Referral Value' with universal reality, that is cosmic consciousness, the source of all existence, the ultimate insight of all human knowledge, a mystical dimension, which goes beyond all human understanding, a reality that exists, yet disconnected, from all human senses, the 'God' of all Gods.

AND, now that time has come, to accept that when the material and physical needs are fulfilled, people will shift to spirituality. 'Pecuniary Possessions' are as important as 'Spiritual Satisfaction' for the freedom people long for. Knowing that life ends in death, living with lies, takes away the zest of life, therefore celebrate life as a 'Festival of Truth' and let all lies bury their own deaths.

AND, now that time has come, to recognize that each person perceives 'Truth' differently, the way he thinks, thus living a 'Lie'. Only when the 'Laws of Nature' are seen, the 'Truth' of 'Immortality' and 'Eternity' is observed as real. Trust this whole truth, rise above all false beliefs and errors of the ephemeral. There is no divine revelation other than this plain truth.

AND, now that time has come, to know that the truth lies in the subtle and not in the gross. A small seed becomes a big tree, and sperm a human being. All small and superstructures in space come into existence by the invisible building blocks of cosmic consciousness. Cosmic consciousness is not a 'Creator but a Cause', and the single source of the cosmic continuum, from where all things emerge, exist for a while, crumble and collapse, and then reassembled again, by natural forces, with clockwork precision.

AND, now that time has come, to uplift 'Homo-sapiens', the special spatial species ordained by nature to evolve in the outer space of cosmic eternity, as an intelligent species of the universe, destined to migrate and multiply, not on planet earth

alone but also on other celestial bodies, orbiting interstellar space of cosmos, penetrating far and wide, in range and reach, like eternity attracts consciousness, magnets iron ores, and cosmic thoughts a receptive mind.

AND, now that time has come, to recognize that 'Man' is the measure of all things, and universe an amalgamation of fact and fiction, built on human observations, thoughts and perceptions. Man is as essential to the creation of the universe as the universe is to the creation of man. Man is what he sees, what he sees is what he thinks, with an objective or a subjective mind that creates the delusion of duality; otherwise, the universe is 'One' when the 'Observer' becomes the 'Observed'.

AND, now that time has come, to accept that everything is ephemeral and the 'Law of Impermanence' governs the cosmos. 'Non-existence' is a reality. In the beginning, there was 'Nothing' and nothing will survive in the end. What now exists will cease to exist, and become nothing, again. If one universe perishes another reappears, reborn by recycling the properties of elements. The 'Phantom of Matter' has no separate existence in the outer 'Space of Spirit', like the scenery is non-existent, without a seer.

AND, now that time has come, to know that 'He' who lives now, did not live in the past as the 'same' person, when he ceases to exist; he is not stored in a place in the sky, as the 'same' entity. He was non-existent; he came into existence and will die by the ravages of time. Biological reproduction is the 'Rebirth' of the physical form. Reliving thoughts, temperaments, and intentions of people cast as a 'Die', stamped and transferred on the 'Mind' of a person, by parents, religions, educational system, culture, society, constitutes 'Rebirth' of deeds that re-emerges repetitively as 'Karma', appearing and disappearing, by the act of a performer, in the play of light and shadows.

AND, now that time has come, to start a 'Public Debate', involving the people of the world and the governments of all democratic countries, to review, rethink and revamp the idea of 'Religion', the root cause of intolerance, divisions and fanaticism in the world. Global terrorism can lead to nuclear war, which can annihilate the human race. 'Public money is demonetized by nations engaged in wars. Public money spent on the welfare of

people adds value to money. So, let us build a 'Warless Welfare World' where peace will reign, poverty will be buried, and life will be lived in joy and laughter.

SPIN IN THE SPIRAL OF INNER SPACE...

AND, now that time has come, when a spiritual seeker in 'A Religionless World' will start a psychological revolution by delving deep within himself to transform his own frame of mind, from a conditioned and captive 'Religious Mindset' to a free and liberal 'Spiritual Mindset', by replacing false religious beliefs with spiritual realities, like the terrestrial truth travels in time.

AND, now that time has come, when a spiritual seeker in 'The Religionless World' will walk 'Alone' on his self-chosen, individual spiritual path, without seeking the help of Gods, priests, mullahs, pundits or gurus, prayers or chanting, or visiting places of worship, or reading holy books or scriptures, or performing rituals or offering sacrifices, or following false religious beliefs, or dogmas, or superstitions, with blind faith.

AND, now that time has come, when a spiritual seeker in 'The Religionless World' will start his journey, treading his own spiritual path that leads to unknown pathless blind alleys, hung in 'Nothingness' of cosmic 'Eternity', where reversal of time is real, as the ever-existing eternal 'Now' spaced out from all finite motions of manmade measures of time known as past, present and future, the finite universes, and the finite galaxies in space.

AND, now that time has come, when a spiritual seeker in 'A Religionless World' will be his own deity, his own guru and script his own spiritual scripture, 'Nature' will be his church, mosque and temple, and unconditional surrender of 'Ego' his prayers, and 'Cosmic Consciousness' his God, Allah or Ishwar, which is ever present, like a vigilant 'Vigil of Vision', overseeing each one and each thing everywhere.

AND, now that time has come, when a spiritual seeker in 'A Religionless World' will find, what sages found, a state of 'Being' experienced inwardly, as the presence of an immortal 'Seer', and sees his 'Becoming' is the making of an outward personality, superimposed by human regulated society, caged and conditioned from birth till death, in self-exiled, human-centric, mind-

marshaled world. Propelling people to live a predetermined life scripted by man-made ideas, trained and tamed to live, a false fabricated life, full of lies, the world dies with them, but nonetheless, ideas live on.

CELEBRATE THE FREEDOM OF TRUTH...

AND, now that time has come, for people of the world to wake up from the slumber of false faiths, into the freedom of spiritual awareness. All holy words and all holy books are useless and misleading. Nothing right can be achieved by focusing on what's wrong. Unlearn what is learned, to relearn that what is right to learn. Develop subtle silence, regain lost innocence, be empty and hollow to experience 'That', which is totally detached from human senses, and cannot be explained, the undecipherable, the unscripted, the unspeakable, and the unheard realities of the world.

AND, now that time has come, to recognize that the present-day life is slavery, suffering, sorrow, and sloth, spent in the cage of contaminated culture, which produces humans as 'Money Making Machines'. Not knowing that humans, without spiritual freedom, are like birds without wings. Wisdom is the treasure trove, and consciousness the ultimate truth. Discover what lies beneath the bark, the wicked and wise struggle to strive, where both ignorance and right understanding succeeds. So, let truth triumph, and perversity of perception that percolates from sheer ignorance fades without a trace.

AND, now that time has come, to know that 'Eternal Truth' never originates or passes away. People rave, rant, and forget it, with the passage of time, yet there is someone who stands up to remind them, in the fear of telling the truth. Life is ephemeral. Death will soon snatch it away. Life is too short. It is spent before you know what life is. So, do not wait, act fast, and share what is good for all, as work on goodness is never finished.

AND, now that time has come, to rejoice in the joy of being free from the clutches of religious conditioning, to rejoice in the joy of being free from the fear of gods and demons, to rejoice in the joy of being free from the fear of sin and salvation, to rejoice in the joy of being free from the fear of hell and heaven,

to rejoice in the joy of being free from delusion and deliverance, and to rejoice in the joy of being free from false faiths and bogus beliefs.

CLARION CALL...

AND, now that time has come, for the author to convert the clarion call into an action plan, as a bounden duty to the world. Therefore, he seeks the permission of the readers to allow him to make a presentation on 'Religious Reforms', without any bias or mala fide intentions, whatsoever. This presentation represents the author's personal views, so the readers may or may not share his views. Readers are free to air their own views too, and share it with others if they deem to do so.

AND, now that time has come, for the world to find solutions to the problems created by religions, and create a platform for the people of the world, from all walks of life, to gather and discuss this burning issue in public domain, for the good of all, before it's too late, to douse the fire, simmering and raging to burn the civilized world to ashes on the grounds of religious beliefs.

Religions may not have ended, but the religions we know have ended, indeed.

CHAPTER 1

Vision

An idea without action is a daydream

There is a lack of understanding of religions. The divide and disconnect religions bring among people, society and nations are unacceptable. People kill each other. One nation creates enmity against another nation in the name of religion, and the harboring of terrorism by the State; religions have become a risky proposition, a destabilizing force, and a threat to mankind. The most worrisome part is the constant conflict arising between 'What religions want' and 'What an individual needs'. This doesn't seem to end but continues to intensify, reaching an alarming level of desperation.

Five thousand years ago, religions did not exist. The world was 'Religionless'. When past is reviewed and compared in context with the present perspective, we find that 'Time' has ticked, bringing with it chaotic changes, testifying the law of nature pronouncing that nothing is permanent and nothing shall last forever. Can we go 'Back to Basics' without ritualistic rigid religions, in the previous pristine scenario of world order that had no religions, where simple spiritual values thrived, where natural laws and natural phenomena were revered, where people worshiped 'Nature' as God? Can we restore that erstwhile spiritual essence? This can come alive, only if, people willingly transcend the limitations of all organized religions.

In this perception, people may see a change where there is nothing to change, people may see a longing where there is nothing to long for. Today, people are living in a state of 'Spiritual Stagnancy', there is intense pain of the soul, a state of chronic agony, created by religious beliefs as well as by the fanatics. Sometimes, the heart needs more time to accept what the mind knows. When head and heart is in synergy, the 'Higher Self' brings the 'Lower Self' under its control, propelling the mind to think, to change and to roll with the wheel of time, to turn around full circle. There is nothing up or down, except the

rise and fall on slides and slopes. So, give life the wings to fly, on a flight to eternity that starts from time and ends in timelessness.

Today, people want to avert the odd occasion and an odd occurrence, rampant terrorist activities, hatred, violence, and divisions created by rigid religions carry. People in the world want to restore brotherhood and peace, and come together as a united harmonious humanity, endorsing 'Oneness', by considering the world as a global village, and humanity as one family by upholding the universal spiritual values that appeal to reason and are in sync with the age of science and technology. Religions belong to the medieval age, a bygone age buried in human history. Can we ever delete all rigid religions from the digital age and promote spiritual values? However, superseding limitations and complexities of religions by itself is an upheaval task.

Creation emerges from consciousness. Inconceivable is the cause and source of consciousness. What mind cannot know, consciousness alone can know consciousness. The world is perceived through consciousness, sub-consciousness, and superconsciousness, in waking, sleeping, and in a state of complete awareness. That's why the reality of the world is just a reflection of human perception, but the truth of the world and the truth of human perception are two different interpretations. Therefore, the pursuit to know absolute truth never ends; it's a persistent effort of human curiosity to transcend human understanding of the world, based on mental constructs, and not on the revelation of reality. Paradoxically, the human mind can hardly penetrate, to know the reality of the unknowable.

However, the fact is that 'Truth' of all living beings is one that is 'Consciousness'. The truth of laws of nature is one that is 'Harmony'. The truth of all human being is one that is 'Happiness'. The truth of mankind is one that is 'Brotherhood'. The truth of all nations is one that is a single 'World'. The truth of all nationalities is one that is 'Earthlings'. The truth of all religions is one that is 'Spiritual Wisdom'. Let the world recognize 'One' in 'Many' and bridge all divisions created by religions, societies, and nations, enabling the people to live in peace, harmony and in happiness, as one family, living in one world as one home.

There is a vast variation between the visualization of the author's vision and the expression of its manifestation. There is no rainbow without rain. There is no action without a vision. Vision with no action is muted muse holed in the hardwood heads and hung in the clouds of thoughts with no visibility. Therefore, if vision knows that action could, then there is nothing that cannot be done or achieved. In this way, action beats vision.

THE IDEA OF THE PROPOSAL

TO be the light of hope, to the people of the world, in their fight against terror campaigns unleashed by fanatics against innocent people in the name of religions, and thwart the terror psychosis, engineered by religions, and find ways and means, to prevent heinous crimes so frequently committed against humanity world over, with no fear of being reprimanded.

TO bring to an end to all false religious beliefs and dogmas that stand to corrupt, contaminate and curb righteous thinking of the people, of the society, of the lawmakers, of the judiciary, and the Governments of all nations, who as sufferers of a sordid situation, circumstantially created by the monopoly of religions, slavishly make them, subservient to inherited religions, due to societal conditioning, trained to tame people from birth to death.

TO highlight the serious problems created by religions, in a way that will allow workable solutions. Together we seek to opt 'Spirituality' by opening an opportunity to bring a steady and sustainable peace, primarily to promote cooperation and collaboration, impacting the lives of people, to accept humanity as one family, a collective social responsibility, all religions have failed to deliver, by creating divisions and hatred among people.

TO create mass awareness concerning the advantages and the disadvantages of religions by initiating a public debate and obtain the consent of people through a worldwide consensus, to introduce religious reforms and to strengthen the sense of social rectitude for human rights and human dignity, and for the freedom of speech, throughout the world.

TO promote a natural way of living, persuade people to live in accordance with the laws of nature, and to harness rational-

ity, moral principles and social values, by donning the onus of 'Oneness' of one world and one humanity, and to endeavor, the fusion of civilization, technology, industry and environment, as a single interdependent entity of the world, logically as, the 'One and Only' indispensable planet earth in whole universe.

TO create a 'Religionless World' within the rules of decorum and decency, and not as defiance and disobedience to any or all religions whatsoever, and to promote universal spiritual values, pragmatism, co-operation, collaboration, harmony, peace, love and compassion among the people of the world, belonging to all caste, creed, color, and country, without any bias or any discrimination, at all.

THE OBJECTIVE

TO promote spiritual values as the '21st Century Creed of Creative Consciousness', which does not originate from any belief system or any ideology, but is driven by the personal efforts of an individual, starting from 'Swadhaya' (self study) developed as 'Swadharma' (self-made article of faith) and then aligning with 'Satyadharma' (the tenets of truth) to merge finally with 'Sanatan Dharma' (the eternal truth). In this way, the true essence of spiritual values can enter the 'Personal Domain' of an individual, weaning away all redundant religions, slowly and steadily from 'Public Domain'.

TO initiate public debate on a burning social issue involving 'Religions' on which the whole structure of human society is built, and to sort out the matter by direct discussions concerning 'What is good for humanity Religion or Spirituality?' And then, take a positive position to agree or disagree: 'Whether people are ready to redefine religions?' or they are prepared to spearhead spiritual activism? Not as an armchair discussion, but as a mass social movement, under a common, crucial campaign, to reform redundant religions.

TO accept what is right and to discard what is wrong, and to be motivated by the highest good for the greatest number of people, and to promote common and universal spiritual values, and to reject false religious beliefs, rituals, superstition and dogmas, and to work for universal cooperation and collaboration,

and to uphold peace and harmony in the world, and to spread message of love, compassion and oneness, among people, the world over.

TO uplift humanity to next level of evolution, from religious beliefs to spiritual values, and to give due importance to 'Human Beings' rather than to 'Supernatural Matters', to help people become spiritual beings, and not followers of rigid religions, and to make the world a congenial place, for multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-lingual humanity, to live in peace as 'one family and considering the world as one home', free from the fears of war, hatred and hostility.

TO prevent condemning or ridiculing others religions or hurting others religious sentiments, and to accept the principles that promote supremacy and dignity of each human being, and to give a position of pride, to the values of family life, as an essential unit of a free society, and institutions that uphold human rights, liberty, morality, free speech and rule of law, to pave a progressive path for the coming generations to tread tenaciously with trust.

SUMMING UP

Redundant religions have distorted truth. Time has come to set things right. Today, religious perversion has reached a breaking point. The mood of the people world over is shifting to non-acceptance of rigid religions. At this crucial stage, this proposal will endeavor to ensure that human race should tread the path of rectitude, so that truth and reason triumph and errors of falsehood are wiped out completely from the social systems of the world.

Religions have taught us what we need to know. It is not that religions are bad, but spirituality is far better than religions are. Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, and Mohammed were godlike but the priest, mullah and pundit are not. Religions are sectarian. They create fear and appeal to faith. Instead, spiritual values are universal and appeal to reason and have the power to stay in the coming years, yet it will not last forever. Sooner or later, spirituality too will be replaced by some better idea, because constant change is the law of nature.

Today, it is imperative to harness 'Spiritual Synergy' for the betterment of mankind. Hence, spiritual synergy should not be based on religion or creed but on a pan-humanistic approach to help human beings become one family and the world one home. The cosmic mind connects without conscious effort, and is not pushed by people, but is led by cosmic design and destiny, to uplift human evolution to the higher levels of consciousness. It's true that spiritual wisdom alone can tie all religions together as one.

The proposal will explore ways and means to communicate with a large number of people from different religions to create a 'Communicative Competence' to put across a simple message to the common citizen: 'What impacts people the most?' and 'What people can do for common benefit?' This is not a tedious task. Paradoxically, in dealing with large-scale global problems, we tend to look for big solutions, forgetting how little things can make a big difference.

We live in a multi-culture, multi-religious, multi-national, multi-lingual world, with nationalistic, racial, linguist, religious and political ideologies that separate people from each other. The author does not approve demolishing these boundaries or assimilating identities, but believes in the propagation of a simplistic idea of 'Oneness in Diversity'. His purpose is to facilitate the exchange of ideas that promote understanding for the collective good of humanity and society and to formulate a 'Public Policy of Social Harmony' to generate goodwill among people, nations and the whole world.

CHAPTER 2

Reflecting on the Vision

Thoughts Throng Thus to Comprehend and Contemplate, Discern, Discover, Determine and Deliberate

THE INSPIRATION

In ancient India, an amazing tradition once prevailed, which enabled people to experience the fullness of life from birth to death. This was known as the 'Four Ashrams of life'. Incidentally, the 'Third' ashram is the source of inspiration for this book, known as 'Vanaprastha'. It starts when a person retires and devotes his time to spiritual matters. Later, in the last watch of his life, the 'Fourth' ashram termed 'Sanyas', he renounces his material possessions, becomes homeless and wanders from one place to another to dispel false religious beliefs, prevailing in his time, if any, with spiritual wisdom, aiming to prevent distortion of religion. This was a voluntary service, rendered by the 'Elders' of the society, as a social responsibility, to ensure that the errors of evil, which quite often creep into faith with the passage of time, were corrected and updated like a gem is polished by rubbing and a man perfected by trials. This was the hallmark of Vedic society.

The author was not aware of this old Vedic culture earlier. But soon after his retirement, during a visit to a bookstore, while turning the pages of a book, by chance he read, about this unique tradition. What he read left an indelible mark on him. Sometimes, things happen for a reason, even random ideas inspire and trigger a response, to fit some part of a big puzzle. But his bohemian habits as a drunken reveler of Bacchus, and his hedonistic unbridled, licentious and libidinous behavior, engaged in satiating carnal desires, even on his journey to the charnel house, left little time for him to study religions, but the idea that sinners too have a future, stirred his curiosity, to know something more, about religions than he knew. So, he bought the holy books, of all major religions, and read them, with intense interest.

It was hard for him to judge the Holy books by their covers.

So, he read each of them from cover to cover and was highly disappointed to discover that the Holy Books are a pack of lies. He stacked all the Holy books back on the bookshelf, promising himself never to read them again. Holy books are not historical depictions but theological reflections. They are more like a book of fiction than a revelation of truth. Taken aback by this appalling disclosure, the idea of religious reforms seized him. This book is the result of that resolution. However, the event that led to the idea of religious reforms was purely incidental. But the idea of a 'Religionless World' must stand on its own right and merit. The first step and last step to accomplish a constructive task are necessary. The author has initiated the process, so the question which author created the idea is no more relevant now. But the question 'How' to implement the idea, has assumed more importance.

Sadly, this great tradition disappeared from India when ruthless invaders brought Islam, and shrewd traders brought Christianity to India. No one could then and even now can dare to change these Holy Books. The Koran and Bible took center-stage, with self-seeking and self-serving agendas, mustered by muscle, cruelty, and conversions, and shamelessly tearing to pieces the highest order of mysticism that ever existed in the world. This mystic order was not a religion but 'Dharma', a charter of righteous duties, which started from basic life to ethereal truth, and grew into a philosophy of life and Vedic civilization on the banks of river Indus, revered even today by the people of India. Dharma is not a core creed. Truth manifests spontaneously and needs no Holy Book. Dharma is Scripture-less, and cataloging it as a Hindu religion is a misnomer. Hinduism is not an organized religion like Islam or Christianity. It is an ever-evolving philosophy of life.

The world had never witnessed Holy Wars before the advent of organized religions. Even today, there is no respite from this misadventure - fanatics continue to sprinkle fresh salt on old wounds by terrorizing the world, with the same old stratagem of 'Fear' which was used by religions in medieval age to conquer and convert people to their religion. The world is still a victim of this horrifying, horrendous heritage. When will terror in the

name of religions stop? If this basic ethical virtue is absent from so-called religions, one wonders, why should anyone follow such religions at all? People think it is impossible to imagine a world without religions. Certainly not, there is a way out. It is time people come out from all old obsolete religious regulations, and emerge as a new spiritual species. It is time for a new world order to succeed, steering sustainable peace and harmony, by spreading the fragrance of love, in a world, burdened with too much hate.

Initially, the Vedic tradition of 'Vanaprastha' had inspired the author, but how to put across the idea of 'Religious Reforms' among people was getting tough on his mind. He could not gallop it globally unsaddled. What was stopping him opened up, what he wanted to happen, when he heard the wonderful lyrics of a great song 'Imagine'. This song was an unconventional way of looking at the world. Its musical and magical words mesmerized, motivated, and moved him deeply, and opened up the possibilities, he was looking for. The author salutes the legendary 'John Lennon' as a mark of respect, from the bottom of his heart, for giving to the world a great inspiring idea to work upon. This proposal is an outcome of the great musician's preference and its prospect. His splendid, striking and superb lyrics churned the minds of his fans all over the world, now future will tell, which way it will lead them, whether it will stop here or take them beyond the scope of religions, to usher a new world order, he cherished so profoundly to establish.

Today, people are engaged in a fierce competition for financial gains, making their lifestyle spiritually empty. To restore a balance, one must devote time to spiritual pursuits, if not early in age, then surely after retirement, a ripe age and right time to shift the focus of life from material to spiritual with least effort, and discover the joy of a newborn freedom as a spiritual being. With age one mellows down. He is at ease with himself, and his surroundings. He is not old as long he seeks to be self-righteous. Life after retirement is a new endeavor, a new challenge, a new path to fulfill, a long dream, hasten it to happen. Life is too short, even while living, death follows like a shadow. If living is dying, then waste no time, act fast, before we fall dead

on the ground like a useless log, even as nature renews, what it sheds. Trouble is we take life too seriously. We should treat life as a comedy, and not as a tragedy, and accept life as it comes, as nothing will go, with the dead. Wisdom reveals our perennial ignorance of a persistent mystery that surrounds us. Then, why should man kill a man, or die for a religion? Frivolous beliefs created by authors of religions, has a touch of madness, why it attracts the attention of people, baffles the mind.

Retirees too often with age and experience, turn into think tanks, and as front stall spectators, see the world as it is, and not as others would like them to see it. With age, they gain knowledge, maturity and use it, as a time-tested wisdom to tell others, what is right and what is wrong. Sadly, this large and growing segment of aged people is a neglected part of society. Being old is comfortable. Then why old age is despised and coveted? The author appeals to all retired senior citizens of the world to take up this proposal voluntarily, at the personal or collective level, with zest and zeal, to uplift the ethical and spiritual standards of our future generation, by creating a society which is free from false religious beliefs. Even as the proposal favors an all-inclusive participation, but discussing it in a split-level society, is like carrying an umbrella in rain with leaking shoes. Humanity grows from righteousness, so rush in to do what is right.

Indian sages compartmentalized life into four stages (1) Brahmacharya (bachelorhood) from birth to 25 years, meant for learning (2) Grihasthasan (family life) from 26 to 65 years, meant to rear up future generation (3) Vanaprastha (senior citizenship) from 66 to 80 years, meant for spiritual seeking and (4) Sanyas (renunciation) from 81 years, meant to prepare for the final pack up call. Few years have been added to the biblical three scores and ten to make it compatible with the current scale of human longevity. However, the idea of four ashrams was to advise people to experience both worldly and spiritual existence, spanned and spaced at appropriate stages of human life. Hindus believe Dharma (right conduct), Artha (money), Kama (physical enjoyment) and Moksha (salvation) are the main components of life. Wealth earned by the wrong means, leading an adulterous life, following false creeds are a burden on the soul,

as they vitiate the karmic balance and regret follows. It was not the length of life but the depth of life spent in four stages of life that really mattered. If someone failed to live all four stages of life scrupulously, he was supposed to lead two ashrams, if not, three stages of life, truthfully.

Today, senior citizens encroach and occupy the space and occupation of young people. Even though their number is increasing fast, yet a large number of elders refuse to pull out from the lure of lucre, carnal cravings, and fleeting fame. The mediocre do not know when to quit. They swim against the current of time and suck youthful energy from the social system, and create a crisis of 'Spiritual Stagnancy'. In a world glued with greed, laden with lust and sunk with selfishness, as people grow old, their desires become stronger than before. To check this insatiable hunger, sages suggested elders follow the spiritual path, and in the last watch of their life, renounce all possessions. There is no other place in the world, except the Himalayas, that has witnessed a large presence of mystics, following the tradition of four ashrams of life. The 'Himalayas' was called the abode of Gods. Mystics who had risen from this order, were seasoned and competent, to show the right path to the people, unlike present-day charlatans, who in garb of self-proclaimed Babas, Gurus and Swamis, shamelessly mislead and rob the innocent and trusting people with their smooth talk, holy robes, hairdos, matted locks, shaven heads, and by coloring their whiskers and beards. All these are deceptions to deceive the world. What more proof do people need to know how charlatans look and behave?

Let us all accept that religions are a philosophy. Philosophy is a branch of knowledge, taught in educational institutions, as any other subject, listed in the syllabus. Teachers in schools or professors in universities do not stick to any peculiar dress code or any particular hairdo to teach physics or philosophy. Gurus and swamis are unqualified teachers of religion. Why do they need typical paraphernalia to teach religion? Isn't it true that only professionals are allowed to wear a distinctive dress, for people to spot them as a doctor in a hospital, or a lawyer in the court? Similarly, people identify the wearer of 'Holy Robes'

as a religious person mistakenly, even if, he is a rogue. This is how phony pretender's trade faith deceitfully, under the cover of holy robes and rob the gullible and lead a luxurious life, as parasites on the earnings of faithful followers. Religion is a lucrative business for the shameless liars and cheats; even people with mental disorders do well, with no risk, and make a fortune in the business of religion, a trait clearly visible in most God-men. Then why does the government allow these scoundrels to live on tax-free benefits? They are the black sheep, who are contaminating the ethics of Vedic heritage, with their turncoat theatrics, memorized and mechanical, repetitive and routine oratory. This is a social evil. Law must take strict action against Godmen, so that no one dares to befool innocent people, any more in future.

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

The author of this book is neither a mystic nor a philosopher, nor a wise man, nor a foolish person, nor a theoretician, nor a theologian, nor a scholar, nor an illiterate, nor inferior, nor superior to an average person in the street is. He is not a god-man or a con-man. He is a 'Common man', who respects social norms, and the rule of law. He is sensual and spiritual, introspective and adventurous, candid and curious. He has faced the vicissitudes of life on a roller coaster ride, experiencing happiness and sorrow not with the masculinity of a man, nor with the equanimity and equipoise of a sage, but with fear and frailty of a fretful man, who finds himself helpless in handling the worsening conditions in his life. As leaves grow on trees and water flows in rivers naturally, his voice echoes spontaneously, as the voice of the common man, not in a whisper but amplified, so that those who refuse to listen may hear. His voice is lonely and feeble now, but will soon become the voice of many. Will someone hears a voice that struggles to speak what is right? Is the world so deaf and blind that it cannot hear the voice of a common man or read the writing on the wall?

The most coveted reward in a man's life is to take on a task that can benefit his fellow beings, society, and the world. If that task is worth doing, then it is worth doing it well. Life, after all, is a 'Do-It-Yourself' project. If we want something right, we have to

make that right, by rising above all obstacles, oppositions, and procrastination. Only right attitude and right choices made today can build a better tomorrow, so why not build it wisely. People must rise above religious hatred and re-establish peace and goodwill. United efforts coming from all sections of society are essential to ending religious conflicts. So, why should the author waver to propose 'Religious Reforms' based on ground realities and not on lies? Religious reforms imply level-headedness, and weaning people to move away from fabricated facts, and set them free from false religious beliefs they uphold so zealously from countless centuries unabated. Can any religion claim they have ever lived in peace with one another? Is killing with guns, bombs and flaming fellowmen a religious act?

Miracles will not happen, nor will any God descend from heavens to save humanity from its stupidity. The more myths and supernatural stories religions invent, more and more people would like to believe in them because the human mind suffers from fantasizing facts, and not by heeding to right counsel. We need to eliminate the element of marvel, miracle, myth, and magic created by religions, thus allowing people to judge the level of truth enshrined in their Holy books, and shun the stagnation of thoughts by rejecting rigidity. Change is inevitable. Change brings practical and positive things with it. Change improves the scenario. Sensible people willingly change with changing time, but fools resist change. As a small key can open a big door, so is the author putting forth his proposal single-handedly before the whole world, to test its tolerability and feasibility? His proposal may not appear viable right now, maybe people are not ready for it, and besides the achievement of its objective is a tall order too. When nothing is certain, uncertainty hangs on to stick, so the author wants people to see and think that what appears to be impossible to them is possible indeed. Life, after all, is a plethora of possibilities.

Religions are in news for all the wrong reasons. Religions divide and create conflicts. This is happening all over the world, yet, people and Governments ignore heinous crimes perpetrated in the name of religions. No criminal act can be justified. Religious militants frighten people by their terror campaigns. Law

must criminalize religions for their unlawful acts. If a crime goes unpunished, it is a mockery of justice. Religions are responsible for destabilizing the social order of the world. Are we so naive? Can we not consider humanity as one family and world a global village? Diversity integrates the world. It is a part of the whole. We need to respect and nurture diversity at any cost. The center of the world rests on oneness with diversity is its circumference. One has to go on the edge to see things, what one cannot see from the center. Harmony resides everywhere. There is nothing wrong in the laws of nature, wrong are the mental constructs created by the human mind. Can a ship made of rocks and stones sail? 'Many-ness' after all is the culmination of 'Oneness'.

One feels helpless when it comes to questioning religious rectitude. If one cannot do, what he will, he must will what he can. This maxim has motivated the author to raise a valid demand for religious reforms, so that all blood spattering conflicts, created by religions come to an end. There is hope that the world can become religionless because, in the graveyard of Holy wars, countless innocent people killed are buried without justice. Irrigated by their blood on the heap of their crushed bones, a flower of friendship is struggling to grow, to seek posthumous justice for the dead, by spreading the fragrance of love in the terrified air of murder and mayhem. Can one flower make a garland for ruthless killers who have killed innumerable innocent people in the name of religions? Can more flowers ever grow on the skeletons sunk in the rivers of blood? Can a single flower of love beleaguered by the rage of furious fanatics, scatter the fragrance of lost love, to waft against the winds of hate and touch the hearts of heartless haters? Trample not this flower of love, let it grow and nurture it with care. After all, the same human blood flows in the veins of the tormentor and the tormented.

Tears trickle down the cheeks, in memory of the innocent people killed by 'Holy crusaders', 'Jihadists' and under the 'Saffron Terror' of the Hindu extremists. My heart bleeds. I appeal the hardliners with folded hands, to stop all atrocities against human nature. This is the right time, for the world to remember, the forgotten unsung heroes, who gave their lives, to save the world, from false religious beliefs, superstitions, rituals, and dog-

matism. The world cannot let their sacrifice go in vain. Will the idea of religion ever end? Will the wisdom of the wise wither away? Will people live in ignorance forever? Will civilizations clash in the name of religion? Will a world wounded by fanatics bleed to death? Will people ever heed to the voice of reason? Alas, all religions, still continue, to trouble the world in the same way, it did in the past, and the world's spiritual pain is becoming more and more intense and unbearable. If a person is sick, will he not seek a physician, medicate to get him cured?

THE FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE

People's preponderance on the wonder and wisdom of religions is resolute, which makes the task of religious reforms tricky. Nevertheless, someone has to take the call, demand a change of the existing format of religions, and insist upon transforming the religious mindset of the people. Someone has to crack the code of silence, so that those who refuse to hear may lend their ears to heed. Someone has to amplify the voice to oppose the heinous crimes being committed in the name of religion. Someone has to remind the 'State' to halt the technique of terror, unleashed by the zealots, and make it dysfunctional. Is there someone who dares to demand religious reforms stand without the fear of retaliation? History testifies those who opposed false religious beliefs were hanged, guillotined or sent to gallows by the fanatics.

A conspiracy of silence surrounds religions. It's a petrified ploy to prevent people from protesting against religions. As a skill silence is golden, but silence under oppression is unethical. The world suffers from silence. The curb to dissent against religions has prompted the author, to air his views in support of religious reforms, openly in the public domain. To do something right, he does not need to consult anyone. Good things happen when the time is right. The gardener may irrigate plants and trees with water, but flowers and fruits will blossom only when the season comes. The harvest we reap depends on the quality of the seeds we plant. In the same way, when we talk about goodness, goodness starts and spreads with sporadic speed, around the world, and then goodness happens, but when we

spare the 'Bad' goodness suffers. As goodness is the cause of our concern, so make haste in doing what is good for people, society, nations and the world. Even if, relinquishing religions may scare and shock some, yet it can quench their thirst with deep spiritual knowledge.

In the past, kings promoted religions to protect themselves; otherwise, no religion could have thrived on its own merit. State sovereigns backed the church, pope and crusaders, who forced people to accept their faith or die. It is a travesty of truth, killing a person makes one a murderer, but killing millions a historical holy figure. We have given sufficient time to religions to do whatever they wanted to do, the worth of religions had its time, and it's over now. Change is the law of nature, and religious reforms are a part of that ongoing process. Why Governments in the world are stuck and stranded when asked to tackle the problems created by religions? It's a deadlock that must end soon. The strategy of fanatics is to degrade the gains of religious reforms, if exposed, they fear to fall, from the crumbling edifice of their own religion. Who will ring the bell to wake the 'State' from its slumber, and ask the State to do something about it? If the author cannot do what he wants to do right now, someone else will do it later. Anyway, this is not going to stop. Even if truth irritates, the truth will find its way to reveal itself unexpectedly. Time waits for none, so welcome an ending, which can bring a new beginning.

This task is monumental and dreadfully distant. When the idea will fructify no one knows. The author is testing the possibility to redefine religions. His idea has the backing of a few supporters now. Therefore, the challenges are huge to confront single-handedly, standing alone he fears to slip back. Can one man rally and lead a movement? Can one man be a catalyst of change? Surely, one man is not an army. So, the author appeals all like-minded people to join the bandwagon, and assist him in mobilizing public opinion in favor of a religionless world. It is foolish for him to think he can free the world from all religions just by floating an untried idea. He sees his idea as a right thing to do, but what is right is not always popular, and what is popular is not always right. All that he wants is to start the process

of change, and not bother about the results. The result is not in his hands, with time things fall in place. So religious reforms will take place only when people think to deliberate and decide, and turn the idea into a reality, backed by the State and its law enforcing machinery. Otherwise, the whole exercise will end up as a poor joke, cracked by the author just to amuse himself.

Truth annoys people who propagate lies. Reforms can become a reality, if intellectuals, lawmakers and democratic countries in the world collaborate and cooperate to work on consensual methodologies, and decide on a common action plan, to introduce religious reforms world over. Stairs are climbed step-by-step. So, should change take place gradually, as a part of a single reformist movement, in which one finds the whole meaning, in the unifying will to build a new structure of reality, free from all false religious beliefs? Reality is a perception, so let us become the receptacle of noble thoughts coming from all sides. Even upholding the thoughts that come beyond the realm of the mind, no one knows from where. He who is receptive knows how to connect with cosmic thoughts. Then the cause of the event becomes more interesting than the event itself. Then changing the world becomes easier than people think. Then those who believe ideology drives them to do, what they do, vet to value, the power of cosmic consciousness to do, what it will is necessary.

Perception of a religionless world is a thought. Thoughts are choice-less awareness, which comes from one source, the 'cosmic consciousness'. Everything in the whole universe is interdependent, nothing is independent, and we all are a part of a huge interconnected cosmic master plan, where eternal universal laws govern, wherein the chain of thoughts, each thought has its own hope, its own desire of a separate existential reality, yet it's not free, from its source. It is hard to realize noble thoughts are the expression of the laws of consciousness, unfolding mysteriously to manifest on earth. Nothing is more disgusting to notice, that a fool like the author of this book, who as a self-proclaimed philosopher, thinks he is the thinker of thoughts. Unmanifest thoughts swing like a pendulum between two extremes, either they are too complicated or too simple. Those who are in align-

ment grasp, and those who resist don't. If the idea of a religionless world is unacceptable now, there is hope it will turn into reality later. So, where is the need to sort out all objections first, before we start the debate on this issue, let us do it the way we are doing it right now? Isn't it better to light a candle than to curse the darkness?

WALK THE TALK

A long journey starts with a single step. People assume, if the core message of the proposal lacks clarity, at the opening stage, then it can be stained, spoiled, manipulated and misused later. Some believe a good beginning makes a good ending. Some feel the starting sprint is the pivotal point to succeed. Each person has his own views to express. A new beginning comes by ending something old and useless, and transitions often create a confrontation. So a good beginning or a bad beginning hardly matters, as long wisdom takes the lead, things will fall in right place. Otherwise, in 'Eternity' there is no beginning and no end, and there is nothing to gain and nothing to lose. He, who knows this, drops his ignorance, and glows with the light of truth, like water shimmers in the sunlight.

The author is working all alone on this campaign. He initiated the process to introduce religious reforms by launching a number of websites starting from February 2013. Alone he came, alone he will go. But can he reach his destination alone, for a social cause he supports so dearly? Can he find his destination on a pathless path? Is there a destination on the path he has chosen to walk under the cosmic canopy? Hard it is to realize the essential. He, who knows, does not talk. He, who talks, does not know. It hardly matters how fast or slow he walks, as long as he does not stop walking. Let him walk alone, to go up and down the path, let him set off, where the path can lead him to walk away. Or let him take the path he wants to tread, untraveled and unexplored, by taking right footpath, even if, he is walking alone unaided. In eternity he must move and keep on moving, that's what he can possibly do, as there is no destination or a place to rest in the infinite nothingness. Just as fruits have seasons, so have thoughts the time to fructify. Simply by launching a

website or publishing a book, nobody can set off an idea to go viral on internet, or turn out to be the bestselling book, without awakening the idea in the minds of the people, which is not so easy, because introducing religious reforms are as hard as wrapping the wind in the sky.

Is there a path in the sky? Is there a place to start or end a journey in the vast firmament? Is there a cosmic master plan working in the interstellar space? Is there a possibility to grasp the ultimate cosmic truth? Knowing which, human curiosity comes to an end, and each person becomes a 'know-all'. Will human quest to know the ultimate wisdom come to an endless end? Will the journey of life find its final destination? If mystery goes beyond wisdom then 'Nothing' lies beyond mystery. Can the mind look beyond nothing? Going beyond the borders of perception to know something is sensible or not? Will he who ask, receive and find what he seeks? Will he reach that mystic stage, where he comes to know, he knows nothing, and still craves to know something? Chop the forest of fictitious thoughts. Follow the voice of conscience, the inner truth, which tells no lie. The mind is double-edged, it works to know, and not to know. Allow intuition to grow, and know what cannot be known, and hear what cannot be heard, and see what cannot be seen, from the kaleidoscope of a multidimensional viewfinder, where mystery, magic, madness coalesces with empty space, in the domain of eternity and nothingness.

We live in a 'natural' and a 'manmade' world simultaneously. Natural life is too simple, manmade life is complex. Ideology and technology drive people towards made-made life. Ironically, we have complicated even natural death by inventing ideas on life after death. The vacillating human mind swings from natural to the artificial, from rational to the irrational. The cycle of life depends on cosmic energies that create, preserve, and destroy, as a rotational routine, like seasons spin in similar patterns, again and again, with no specific purpose. Without any purpose, human life is boring, so the human mind creates purpose, to make life interesting, persuading people to pursue imaginary objectives. Even our whole educational system trains and teaches students a package of ideologies, marked as disciplines of

knowledge. All mental constructs end, from where they start, as everything is orbital, rotational and cyclic in nature. Nature moves in spherical patterns; it is difficult to know from where a circle starts, and where the circle ends. A circle starts and ends nowhere, signifying renewal, continuity and eternity. The invention of 'Zero' by India enhanced the growth of mathematics and scientific studies in the world.

The laws of nature govern us. We are not the maker of events. Events just happen. We rush into them or happen to be there by chance. As a result, our life is uncharted. Where we are born, when we die, no one knows. Life's journey from birth to death is random and unpredictable. We lead life by holding on to 'One' thought at a time, the moment that thought is gone, we switch over to another thought. When the 'thought' we have lived ceases, then the 'I' of the thought also ceases with it. When the 'I' is no more in that thought, then the 'I' is literally dead. What is left over is consciousness? Holding on to consciousness for long is difficult, due to the intrusive, inquisitive and interfering mind. Soon the 'I' reappears with another thought, created by the mind. In this manner the 'I' relives again. This is how the 'I' is reborn, and 'I' takes rebirth constantly, in the stream of thoughts, created by the mind. The 'I' not only lives once but several times, in the span of one human life. The golden moment comes when 'I' drops and 'mind' dissolves and disappears. Then, we suddenly experience the presence of 'Consciousness' the highest state of 'Being', beyond which there is nothing more to know.

The religionless world is an untested idea. When ideologies preside over people, then religions are seen as statements of ideas, influencing people, from the day religions were established many millenniums ago. Time has come to give a reasonable chance to the idea of a 'Religionless World' to succeed. Ideas invent, impel and find ways to manage the minds of the people. Personally speaking, the author is against promoting any ideology because he knows ideologies condition the mind, and only consciousness is natural and open like the sky. Since the world is driven by ideas, so only an idea can change the world. That's why it was a tough decision for him to take, to float the idea of a 'Religionless World'. When we cannot get

what we like, can we like what we can get? People never know what they like. They are more concerned with what they don't like. Rational minds can make mistakes, conscience seldom does. So, let us explore new paths rather than travel on worn out paths. Religious ideas change, but spiritual values last forever. Can we end the reign of religions? Are facts negated when ignored? People see what they want to see. It is easy for them to see, but difficult to foresee. Religions will go when people are prepared to admit religious inconveniences, and not otherwise.

The priest, mullah and the pundit push people on the path of religions. Their fake ideas contaminate the mind of the faithful who follow them with blind faith and trust religious beliefs and superstitions as real, without investigating them. The gullible uphold as true what preachers sermonize, and try to achieve an imagined goal in their life, invented by the authors of religions. Consequently, knowledge gained by them from religions is not good enough, to lead a practical life, but those who walk on the path of spirituality gain practical knowledge by self-exploration and self- experience, which enhances the quality of their lives in realistic terms. Human beings as spiritual beings have nothing to live, for a life, without spiritual values. Humanity has reached an evolutionary stage where educated speak, what they see, fools what they hear. Those who feel intuition is non-verbal, and silence, the brain of the fools, know that the most useful thing is the wisdom of intuition or the sixth sense and not the knowledge of religion, which is impractical, unrealistic and so unreasonable.

Readers are requested to join the 'Author' on his walk and talk to him, even if obstacles are laid on the way to religious reforms, which is not easily removed, making the passage impassable. It's true, when we walk together, we can gather collective strength, when we talk to each other, we can devise ways and means to overcome obstacles on the way, and fine tune the plan to its logical conclusion. A combined power produced by trying and trusting each other can move mountains. Then what we seek we surely find. So why be scared and silent just see the motive behind the idea. Where there is a reason there is hope. Wait not, let us start from where we are, and welcome

a world without religions, and become a part of a decisive moment in time. What is willed to happen is happening right now, whether we oppose or accept it, whether we weep or laugh over it. Therefore, if something is worthy, why shouldn't we allow it to happen, or else, even while dying, the swan sings, and even while dancing, the peacock weeps.

PUBLIC OPINION

Work of theologians is boring and brainless. Intellectuals have already debunked and demystified theories, invented by religions as a pack of lies. Yet, custodians of religions are unwilling to admit this reality, and run down the reality check as blasphemous, by arguing the world can never become a religionless place, as long it is under the reign of religions and religious beliefs. People forget that religions did not exist 5000 years ago. The world was without organized religion. People merely evinced interest in supernatural phenomena and moral values. A span of five thousand years, showing the supremacy of religions, may appear too long in terms of human existence, but is too short a time, in the history of the world. Then, why should faith followers defend religions as eternal truth? This is difficult to digest. Lies in the age of science and technology are not liked by educated people, because lies contaminate reality. Can an opinion which is widely held be an evidence of truth? The reality is that the widespread religious beliefs are too often, and more likely, to be foolish than factual.

Path of spirituality is subtle. It starts from self-exploration and surges ahead to connect human consciousness with cosmic consciousness. The brain creates thought and senses emotion. Thoughts and emotions fused together make the mind. The mind does not produce consciousness nor does brain or senses. Brain and senses are under the monopoly of mind, while mind hides somewhere in the fold of consciousness, hard to locate. Mind fails to go where the mind is, but consciousness goes where consciousness is. Mind creates 'Ego', a sense of false self. Beyond mind is consciousness, beyond consciousness is a mystery, and beyond mystery, nobody knows what, it is simply called 'That', symbolically. Ultimate cosmic reality does not end

in being anything, but is a flight in the endless eternity, of the unknowable, uncreated and unborn state of 'Being', where nobody can comprehend it, except hear, the echo of his own voice and see his own thoughts bounce back to him, it's a pure mystic state. Religions blunder when they try to define the indefinable by myths and Gods, which is factually incorrect. However, by knowing time-tested spiritual values, one comes to know, what can be known, if not more, but thus far, nothing less, indeed.

Nature prevents stagnation. In cosmos, everything is recycled by laws of nature, from a tiny atom to a gigantic galaxy in renewed or renewable forms, including the formless and the unformed. In the cycle of life and death 'Life Force' gets refurbished in its numerous physical forms. None can defy the laws of nature. 'Change' is a timeless law. Everything changes, only change does not change. Then why religions resist change? Then why religions are so rigid? Change brings flexibility or else all religionists will become hardened, hard-nosed and hardwood heads. If people want to live a natural life, they must be ready to change, as and when the occasion to change arises. Nothing is permanent except change. Change alone is constant. Yet, change brings a little inconvenience as well. Now, it is a matter of time, before some drastic changes in religions take place. This mission is a step in that direction. A glorious future waits for those who can change. Let us restructure religions, and make the world a better place, free from divisions and hatred created by raging religions.

The act of religious militants is a proxy war on humanity, a clash of civilizations in the making. How long will the world shut its eyes like a pigeon, when the cat of religious terrorism is ready to pounce on it? A collective effort to ensure peace and unity among people, belonging to all religions is necessary. People should not sit silent and see the world bleed to death and burnt to ashes. Nor should they blame fanatics or the terrorists. Instead, some corrective measures should be taken to prevent rogue States and religions from promoting fanaticism and terrorism in the world. Many times, seeing this 'Hate-Kill' scenario, tears well up, in the author's eyes, and run down his cheeks, making him sad to see his work will not be over. So he

laments, seeing not the end of his labor in his lifetime because he will soon become a pile of dust. Optimistically, in the age of science and technology, he sees the scope of religions being redefined, which gives him hope that religious reforms will come to pass, if not now, maybe sometime later. Now that the 'Truth' is out, can an ocean send its water back to rivers? Hard it is to roll back a road once it's laid.

The author urges the readers to give practical suggestions. If they are found suitable, he will incorporate them in his plan to make it more meaningful and viable. It is too early for readers and people to probe the project, till its objective is not achieved. If we think this plan is not workable, then we can expect nothing in return. All we need is to pursue the plan with perseverance. People who keep trying to achieve. At the outset, fanatics will pull down the plan, as quickly as possible, because the plan threatens to dismantle the structure of their existing religions. Moreover, it is difficult for a common man to confront contemporary religious issues directly. Educated people expect this plan to work. Everything looks difficult before it becomes easy, it seems big results need big plans, and big problems a big achievement, which is a fallacy. Can we ever achieve if we never try? So, let's try to reach out, right now.

Everything comes from eternity, where no fixed plans survive, or any purpose is served to achieve. Even objective of this plan is not to accomplish any preset point or any purpose, but to remove all false religious beliefs, and the animosity created by religions. Even, the author's point of view is not faultless, foolproof or the final word. Readers are at liberty to express their own views freely 'For' or 'Against' the plan or add something more to enhance its value. The ground reality is to lead 'Religious Reforms' through public consensus, with utmost consideration for social justice and fair play, without departing from rational justification. The plan avoids demeaning others, except that it craves to rationalize the usefulness of a religionless world, knowing well, the issue is social-centric, and can touch the subtle sensibilities or hurt sentiments of the people. However, life is often lived by taking tough decisions, which are not at all times wrong or for all time right.

The world's biggest challenge is how to deal with the problems created by religions, and tackle the global menace of terrorism tactfully, which is spreading fast, and fueling the fire of hatred to dangerous levels in many parts of the world. The author appeals to the readers, the common man, the intellectuals, the social activists, scholars, academicians, lawmakers, and all those who are concerned about human dignity and social values to ponder over this serious issue and contribute their mite, by giving workable suggestions, for the hope that they have, a solution to this burning problem. Their opinion 'For' or 'Against' religious reforms is very important to the author because it can help him decide the future course of his action, whether he should drop the idea or go ahead with his plan to raise a relevant demand to reform religions.

All those who are concerned to solve this persisting problem need to decide (1) whether humanity stands to benefit through spiritual values or by their allegiance to redundant religions, (2) whether people should subordinate reason to religion and stifle the voice of dissent with bullets and not with the weapon of wisdom, (3) whether a world without religions is better to promote 'Right Understanding' destined for the higher evolution of human race and development of a futuristic 'Global Society', (4) whether spiritual norms can replace religions, (5) whether a compendium that contains universal spiritual values termed as 'Satyadharma' is required and (6) whether there are any other suitable alternatives to replace religions or any workable method to switch-over from medieval age religious mindset to a digital age spiritual mindset, developing mankind to step into space age. Let the past what once was go, and let us pursue that which is good for the future of mankind, right now.

IDEATION AND INTENT

The virtues of openness, saneness and trueness are irritants to the position of intolerance religions take. The author is here not to create a new religion but to make the world 'Religionless'. He is using the knowledge fostered by his parents, elders, and teachers, who taught him, and partly from his own understanding, to shape the idea of a 'Religionless world' as a catalyst for

social change, to facilitate mankind to leap to a higher level of spiritual evolution. Many people have said in the past what he says now. He has nothing new to add. Except that, he is self-driven, seeing the forces of failure to diffuse the horrifying impact of 9/11 (New York) and 26/11 (Mumbai) that left an indelible mark of grief, deeply etched on his mind, difficult to erase. Reminiscing those frightening moments he saw live on TV with tears, leave him shocked and speechless. Those events still haunt him, as if the dead are pleading to the world, to make all religions 'People Friendly'. So, to render a posthumous justice in the memory of all innocent people killed by religions, can we tolerate being stifled? When will religions stop killing people? After all, liberty and freedom are far more important to the people of the world that religions are today.

The author is not a revolutionary nor is he a visionary. What he says is repetitive, recycled and repackaged views, in one way or the other. The whole mystery is that 'Truth' is neither new nor old. Truth struggles to reveal itself, so it is just a big brainteaser. That's why the 'Wise' never wrote books, as they had nothing 'New' to write or tell. The wise spoke and did not write books. They enlivened the world with direct dialogue with people, and not through stage managed shows. Only fools like the author, indulge in the craft of writing, knowing well that the written words outlive spoken words, overlooking the fact that written words are merely a monologue, a soliloquy that isolates the author from the people, thus creating a morphed reality. Written words are dead but writing keeps them alive, that's why authors write, thinking foolishly, they are the ones who know, what is good and bad for the world, as if, others don't know. In this way, many old ideas are sucked back as new ideas in the public domain. This is what the author is doing. Is there a better way other than this? Then do tell him, and tell him truly, as the world suffers from the silence of good people. So, share the good you know with others, as work on goodness is never finished.

All man-made languages and all different man-made disciplines of knowledge that we acquire pre-exist, nothing is being said for the first time, and countless people have expressed similar views earlier too. The author is simply replicating them,

assuming what he feels is right he writes and does not judge what he writes. It is for the people to judge not him. He wants to write because he thinks he has an important message to deliver, a very important work to do, to make the world a better place to live. He believes what he thinks is beneficial for the spiritual evolution of human beings, and the real consequence of his life is, in what he believes, and what he does. What he believes is not a routine matter, but a revelation of reality, of an untested idea, spiritual to its core. Is his idea workable? Can it withstand the test of reason? Should he miss the wood for the trees? If it hurts people to let their religions go than it hurts them more to hold on to their religions. Do they know this or they don't? Maybe, their God knows, maybe he too doesn't know.

Words captivate, its usage creates a style, which differs from others writings. When a language grows larger, it varies by the intrusion of demanding dialects. Indian English differs from American English, and American English differs from Englishman's English. Despite these deviations, one wonders why some people think, if writing is plain and simple, it is unprocessed and incomplete. Perhaps the 'Laureates of Languages' like writings to be 'complex' so that something 'abstract' can be picked up, and proclaimed as original, groundbreaking, pioneering piece of work. Most award-winning authors fall into this category. The author of this book thinks in his mother tongue Punjabi speaks in his national language Hindi and writes in an international language English. Being linguistically complex his writing is not innovative. It is ridiculous to think in such stupid terms, writing ought to be simple. Only simplicity succeeds in conveying a communication clearly. Even in mass movements, simple and single issues draw the attention of people, and not complex or loaded issues. When words are right, words have the power to 'Change' the minds of the people. The author may miss out right words while writing in English, but he will surely end up conveying his message clearly to the readers. When language makes noise, then silence speaks, and words depart.

The charm of deception, intellectualism, fantasy, falsehood and the power of communication, with the punchlines, is good for writing. But truth written in simple words, without exaggera-

tions is far better than making it difficult to comprehend. Doubt is the key to knowledge and by learning knowledge is acquired. Knowledge is not the whole truth, it is an error as well. Those who seek truth and not knowledge, wisdom alone lead them to the truth. Wisdom is short and simple, rest all is superimposed, indoctrinated and conditioned. Those who complicate truth by words lose their way, and know not 'That'. Those who trail truth with fake talk, knock the door, shake to and fro, and enter not, to know 'That'. Truth irritates, truth makes enemies, the truth is ridiculed, the truth is opposed, even half-truths are seen as a whole lies by mediocre minds conditioned by religions. Mediocrity dismisses truth and knows nothing higher than what it knows. Let us liberate ourselves from falsehood like a noble steed is freed from its chains.

The world is full of contrary ways, precariously arranged in the 'Pairs of Opposites'. If there is hate, there is love. If there is conflict, there is harmony. If there is sorrow, there is happiness. If there is a pleasure, there is a pain. If there is rigidity, there is flexibility. If there is the truth, there is a falsehood. There is no rose without a thorn. There is no song without a melody. Still, a rose finds a thorn-less place to bloom, and a singer a song to sing. If the real is boring, the unreal is entertaining. Is there a danger in the false beliefs fostered by religions? Why do people want to live in an unreal world created by religions? Why do people waver to live in a real world full of ground realities? Why does each person claim his point of view is right? Why those who live in falsehood, dread truth and disbelieve others, except themselves, as torchbearers of truth? Why does truth need to clad in fantasy to appeal people? Even if, wise see the world as a madhouse, it is true as daylight, that right views, can only correct wrong views, there is no other way, but to follow the contrary way, to correct the existing wrongs now, which may go wrong later, and be corrected, by a contrary correction relevant in future too.

The author is trying his best to spread the idea of a 'Religionless World', by reaching out to the people of the world, any which way he can, to draw the attention of intellectuals, common man, and the Governments of democratic countries,

the entities and people who can help create a common consensus to introduce religious reforms, as proposed by way of improvisation, based on public consent, counsel and conciliation. Religious people are addicted to exaggeration and fixed views, they cannot see truth as it is. The very thought of a religionless world can create fear in religious institutions world over. They may scorn the idea as subversive. But wrong views should not deter the right work. If the proposal is good and beneficial for the people and society, it must be a matter of relief to introduce it to the world. The author is stating only the hard facts, as they are. Now, it's for the 'Intellectuals', the 'Public' and the 'Democratic Governments' to decide whether they would like to support his idea or not, to improve the life of the people, make the world better, and a peaceful place to live.

It is very likely the author can go to any extreme to make a sense out of a difficult plan, and push his point of view by giving compelling reasons, even if his write-up becomes lengthy and boring. He may not hesitate to give meaning to what, maybe, is meaningless to others. He knows logic is a double-edged sword. It can convince some readers that what he says makes sense. Keeping in mind that 'longer the explanation is, bigger is the lie', there arises a need to investigate facts, ponder over the content, question its merit, consider its ramifications, and take time to decide, what is right and what is wrong. Can a new wrong expiate an old wrong? Can a small leak sink a big ship? Is all this thinking good for us? If science could replace the alchemist, why can't we replace false religious beliefs with spiritual values? Due diligence and objective investigation, without any prejudice are necessary, to formulate the right opinion. The world needs good ideas to put them into practice for the good of all. So, let us not be indecisive, let us decide to move in the right direction, right now.

Some people want a new theme, a new idea, and a new expression. The author cannot deliver anything that is groundbreaking, nor can he match the class of words of a worthy wordsmith, who can capture and captivate the minds of the people, nor is he prepared to give up his idea just for these silly reasons. He wants to put across his views and does not mind

how critics may judge and pronounce. Criticism, after all, brings improvement as failures bring success with it. When intellectuals falter to discuss religious reforms, then people must certainly welcome a commoner who dares to talk about it openly. There is no creativity involved to support a social cause. It is a plain talk by a plain man. The biggest drawback is that people are creatures of habit who prefer to live in their own cocoons. Old habits die-hard, so any 'change' can disturb them. Habitually, people are likely to revert back to their old habits when they are put under pressure to change. This plan to reform religions strives to transform people, by creating 'social awareness' and not by forcing an abrupt change on them.

Thoughts are a powerful energy, even if they are absurd and abstract, foolish or frivolous. Thoughts can influence and control the actions of people who pay attention to them. Each thought has its own hope, own desire, own reality, and its own destiny, and weaves a world of its own making. Therefore, readers must read carefully what the author writes so that false notions are not established or accepted that may lower the lofty ideals of humanity. The intention of the author is not to insist on what he says. He wants truth and righteousness to triumph over falsehood, that's all, so he wants the opinion of readers to tell him, whether the idea to promote a world without religions is acceptable to them or not. In past, religions had its glorious seasons with fruits, but now infested religions are contaminating the whole humanity. The world does not want the virus of religions to spread, sicken and cripple the health of human progress from digital age to space age, anymore.

The time to change has come. The foundations of religions are crumbling, giving way to new structures. Fearing threats from fanatics, the world pays no attention to ground reality, appeasement and annoyance cloud reason and truth. People have waited far too long for religions to change, in vain. Pushing this plan is not a revolutionary act, but a basic social necessity. The world must discard redundant religions, followed by fanatics, who want to weaken and destabilize world peace. The problem with fanatics is that they are so certain about their religions that they refuse to discuss and treat truth as blasphemy. Fanat-

ics will never change their minds. They will ridicule reforms and oppose it violently, even if people want to reconstruct religions with a new philosophy. The success of the new philosophy will depend on people who are in doubt. Doubt is the key to know more about the truth. If we begin in doubt, we may end up in faith, believing all out-dated things will pass, and all up-to-date things will prop up, as nothing is static in a rapidly changing world. Follow this timeless truth, remove the mask of religion that is worn to hide hypocrisy and become tolerant, open-minded and welcome a dynamic change, now in the offing.

There is conflict, there is hatred, and divided stands the world, by problems created, due to the clash of ideologies of 'Organized Religions' and by the idea of 'Nations'. Both these divisive mental constructs are the main troublemakers, invented by man against man. The world is paralyzed by the problems created by religions and nations. Can we cure this disease? We must now seriously ponder on the idea of a 'Religionless World' and a 'Nationless World'. The wise have given us adequate advice, let us put the good advice into action, and pursue a deeper meaning that goes beyond the two big ideological failures, which have resulted in human bloodbath and battles. Oneness of humanity and oneness of the world is a natural arrangement made by the law of nature. Therefore, humanity must erect the edifice of human civilization on the foundation of natural laws, and not on any foolish human ideology. Nature does nothing in vain, but people do and give pain to others by their idiotic ideas. Therefore, ideologies must focus on the working methodologies of nature, for the benefit of people, the society, and the world, and should not disturb the natural order of things by any counterproductive ideas, which go against natural dispensation and disposition.

There is an inkling of inconsistency, contradiction, and deficiency, with all untested ideas. Even tested ideas are not free from disagreement. Knowledge is vast, knowing everything is far-fetched. Knowledge is acquired not wisdom. Wisdom brings awareness of knowing nothing, and to know that we know nothing, we must know enough, to know that we do not know. Therefore, the rule to relearn what we have learned involves first to

unlearn what is learned, and then learn how to learn that which must be learned. It is strange, yet true, from eternity ideas unfold mysteriously, coming from the realm of cosmic consciousness, hard it is to know the unspoken and the unwritten power of the supernatural. The greater the knowledge is, the greater is the ignorance. Reason can never know how mystical thoughts manifest, but we do know that many fools had become wise without learning. The mystery of materialization of supernatural phenomena is hidden and hard to grasp. So, it is sufficient for us to know, what is right and what is wrong, that's all, nothing more and nothing less.

From the trails and travails of religion to the rapture of reason, the next evolutionary step in the development of a spiritual mindset, which will completely change the whole outlook of humanity. Spiritually awakened minds will go beyond all baser instincts, emotions, reason, intellect, and shift their focus from the gross to subtle consciousness, spreading compassion and peace in the world. In future, the human presence in far-flung environs of the cosmos too will soon become a reality. Great is the potential of human life in the interstellar space. Therefore, allow this to happen, and appreciate that birth as a human being is a blessing, to materialize this extraterrestrial possibility. So, let us not waste our precious human life. Let us not kill, hate and divide people. Let us bury all differences on race, color, creed, and nationality. Let us come closer to each other. Let us restore peace, harmony, and eliminate terrorism completely, from a conflict-ridden world, divided by rigid and redundant religions.

The author is against the gruesome terrorist acts carried out by extremists in the name of religions, intended to weaken and tatter to pieces the social order and peace of the world, which is happening in a recurring manner, unstopped, thus affecting the economic and social progress of the whole world. Therefore, the author is exploring to find a solution to this problem and assumes his plan is worth considering to bail out people from a tight spot, depending on public approval or rejection, on the suggestions made by him. The idea of religion was a product of the medieval age, but the resurrected idea of spiritual values is an idea which is contemporary, and matches the aspirations of

people, living in a scientific, and a technology-driven digital age, which seems to appear relevant, even for future 'space age'. So, the time has come to throw out the rotten eggs.

The brain is hardware and the mind is software. The brain is the physical organ of the body, the mind is non-physical energy. Where the mind goes, we too go, and therefore, what the mind creates is our destiny. Past is strong in our memory as a mind cannot rid its past easily. Mind carries the past, and not the present, past alone lives in mind. In this logjam, past is likely to be the future of the mind, and in this prospect, the mind relives its past. So erase past and live in present, to be in future, free from the pranks of past. If self-realization is the purpose of life, then renunciation is the path to spiritual wisdom. This understanding gives birth to unconditional love and service to humanity that helps to restore peace and harmony, through reason and rectitude. Once we taste the higher dimensions we seek more of it. In the laws of nature we see the truth, rest all is an error, just like mountains are surmounted by winding paths.

Ideas are easily transferred from the writer to the reader. So, the author wants his ideas to forge a connection, with the people all over the world. Hoping his thoughts would manifest in the mind of the readers by the script, without any director or any producer, thus eliminating the ills and evils of a 'Writer's Cult'. Readers must go after right ideas, not behind people who write them. In the stream of thoughts, we cannot stop the waves of thoughts but can choose which wave to surf, even as waves in ocean swell, during a full moon, producing high tides of thoughts that can sweep and drown the mind. When we cannot rearrange our circumstances, we must create new conditions without regretting what is by now history and hope that, what is to come is the best. When what's done, cannot be undone, then it's appropriate to welcome 'Change'.

While sharing thoughts with the readers, if by chance, any piece of the author's writing or his ideas or his reasoning has erred or offended anyone or has transgressed the parameter of civility and courtesy, the author humbly apologizes for the lapse. Please condone and forgive him. His intention is not to demean or ridicule religions, hurt or harm people's religious sentiments.

As a peace-loving, law-abiding citizen of the world, he is only seeking solutions to the problems created by religions and has aired his views with an open mind, by pouring out his heart, without any prejudice. After all, he is one among the common man, who is struggling to light a lamp to dispel darkness. He is also trying hard to light the neurons in the brain of those who have stopped thinking, to make them think now. When light is more, obviously the shadow is deep. So watch out the standards of religions, and decide to live on your own spiritual terms, and your life will never go wrong. We know we cannot be certain, yet the uncertain hurts us, so let us talk to each other, to know what we need to know.

CHAPTER 3

The Proposal

Mankind's next evolutionary step is to evolve
from reason to spirituality

WORLD SCENARIO

There has never been a dearth of philosophical and theological precepts. The world is filled with ideas that leave little scope for add-ons. Is reality envisioned by religions irreversible and final? Reality is best understood by multiple points of views. It's always good to examine different views in concert to arrive at a common view that mirrors reality. Today, people are tagged to technology and do not engage in philosophy. This does not mean philosophy is dead. Philosophy alone can conceptualize a system on social beliefs. Today, the world is witnessing a spiritual awakening. Spiritual values are in sync with the current mindset of the people. Reliability of religion is losing its ground. People are reluctant to accept religions, and at the same time, find themselves unsure about the lack of clarity of spiritual values as well. People want to seek answers from within rather subscribe to any dogma. There are plenty of new untried and unproven areas inside, bring them out in the open. There is no blind faith in following this method, but a realistic reliance that emerges from one's own personal experience.

Spirituality starts from values of life and ends in the reality of 'Being' a part of a wholly natural process, and not in 'Becoming' what religions want followers to become. A life lived in harmony with one's own nature is advantageous. The knowledge of spirituality is gained from personal experience, not from the experiences of others. Spirituality impels people to see life independently at the individual level. 'Personal Experience' alone can bring right understanding. There is no Guru other than the spiritual seeker himself, who is self-driven by self-awareness on a self-chosen journey which starts from self-study to self-knowledge, evolved by self-created methods, to achieve a self-transformation, leading to the ultimate self-enlightenment. Repeated

use of the word 'Self' is to emphasize that spirituality is synonymous to 'Self-efforts', and does not rely on external assistance, be it an institution, a regulator, a holy book or God, or to attain 'self-realization'. How hollow is an idea that is unreasonably extracted? Conscience knows before, what the mind takes time to know, patience and persistence when pushed can slice a stone, so a daily conversation with our own 'Self' is important, indeed.

In a world full of deceit, religions are manipulated by criminal fanatics, corrupt politicians and crooked religious leaders. Today, religion signifies superficial rituals, and external display of religious symbols adorned to exhibit the 'brand' of religion. The followers take pride in show-off followers of other faiths, who respond in a similar manner as others do. The outward display of emblems gives them a sense of belonging, concurring with a compatible group of people that gives them security and social identity. Religions do not shape any longer the character of people. Culture and traditions dominate people's belief. Politicians exploit religion as vote banks, religious leaders use it, to gain power, and vested groups abuse it, to create noise and nuisance. When politics and religion are mixed, its effect on people and society is deadly, indeed. The pain inflicted on innocent people by religions must be prevented at any cost by the 'Rule of Law'. Reform is part of a social need to streamline religions with contemporary and evolutionary principles. When the river is flooded, the boatman fails to navigate his boat, but by powerful winds the boat sails rudderless. Let us all resolve, and take a firm decision not to follow, any authoritative religion blindly anymore, from right now.

Today, people world over are preoccupied with three obsessions: (1) Money, (2) Democracy, and (3) Religion. Revamping public fixations to synchronize with the current trend, from time to time, is a good strategy of an evolving, civilized society. The world has opened its markets to create economic opportunities, and for money to grow. The political system is shifting towards democracy. But when it comes to religious reforms, the world does not consider good enough to discuss the renovation of religions, averting a much needed and long awaited issue to reform religions, thus allowing outdated religions to continue.

Historically, what has changed in a thousand years is 'Money Matters' and methods of 'State Governance'. Why not religions? Religions continue to be the same as they were a thousand years ago. This is not a result of their popularity, but due to the fear created by fanatics to retain its medieval 'Status-quo', just to serve their sordid sectarian and dogmatic designs. Is this acceptable to the modern world?

Governments remain silent on religious reforms and defend their silence by lame excuses, citing that interference in the affairs of religion is not a national priority or an agenda, thus reducing the role of the State to a mute spectator. Religion is 'Public' and not a 'Private' issue. It's the responsibility of Government(s) to find solutions to the problems created by religions. By ignoring and being submissive 'State' strengthens the status-quo of religions, giving them an unbridled license, to do what they want to do, hate, terrify and divide people, under the pretense of a sanctimonious cover, provided to them by the State. This gives religions the leverage, on their holier-than-thou cutout portrayal, to take full advantage to gain influence and authority, nationally and internationally, for all the wrong reasons. Government(s) shouldn't appease religions anymore. Time has changed. The 'Rule of Law' and the 'Welfare of People' are the governing principles of a democratic State and not religions.

Since the advent of organized religions, human civilization has been a 'Silent Victim' of communal violence, bloodshed, migrations, exodus, riots, holy wars and fanaticism. People must know the power-hungry priests, mullah and pundit, and self-appointed religious leaders, and self-styled Swamis and Gurus are smooth-tongued demagogues, who by their oratorical skills use religions as a 'Tool' to serve their selfish interest. They do not earn bread by their brow, but live as parasites, on the charity of faithful followers. They stifle the voice of reason, disable dissent, obstruct religious reforms, and live lavishly in the lap of luxury, on swindled wealth, by cheating the gullible faith followers. Law must intervene, prevent and protect the rights of trusting innocent people. The rogues in robes use all modern technologies and gadgets, and hide their old outdated religious intentions masked, under headgear's, designer dress, well-groomed hair-

styles, dyed mustaches, and beards, and preach others to follow medieval age beliefs, they themselves don't follow and practice.

The priest, mullah, pundit and religious preachers entice simpletons by false promises, brainwash them, and incite them with fury and rage to lay down their lives to save their religion from the threat of other religions, whose Gods they dread as demons, and revere their own God as sacrosanct. Life is too precious to lose for a flimsy cause and die for a stupid religious belief. Yet, herds of die-hard followers are driven like cattle to kill innocent men, women, and children on the street, in the marketplace, at the places of work. These extremists, who themselves burn in flames, explode like human-bombs, killing others are promised a place in heaven, as a reward for a heartless deed. If criminals were to live in heaven, then who would like to stay in hell? Shamefully, all major religions in the world are guilty of heinous crimes in the name of religion, be it the crusaders of holy wars, or jihadist invaders, or the revenge by the saffron terror outfits. If they get away with it, they will continue to commit more heinous crimes, so nip this nefarious nexus in its nest.

The activities of religious fundamentalists have disturbed world peace and have destabilized the global social order, by terrorizing and killing innocent people, under the cover of religions. Those who dare to oppose them are silenced, in the most horrifying ways, worst consequences come, when rouge States sponsor fanatics, to create terror in other countries, what more can be said, when there is nothing left to say, on this unpardonable way of bad governance, exceptions don't prove the rule. State administration and law enforcing machinery must keep an eye on them, and not let any unlawful act go unpunished. It is the duty of the State to safeguard the freedom of thought. The intention of religious extremist's world over is same. They are pushing modern civilization back to medieval age. Can the age of technology give up rockets for rocks? If religions do not accept change, civilizations shall soon decline and not prosper.

Terrorist activities in the name of religions is a real global threat, and is one of the biggest social problems, the world is facing today, helplessly, with no solutions to end this, at hand. It's alarming to see, the range and reach of religious militants,

unleashing extremist activities, which has spread its tentacles in every part of the world. Terrorist are recruited in one country, money for terrorist activities is raised in another country, and mayhem and massacre are let loose in some different country. Fanatics are slowly and steadily galvanizing to wage war globally, involving the whole international community, to conclude into a clash of civilizations, leading to a third world war. Many nations are drawn in this indirectly, and some nations directly, imagine if a nuclear nation sponsors these wicked activities. World leaders wait no more. Prevent on priority this looming danger, before it's too late.

INDIAN SCENARIO

India is the land of saints and gods. In India, the finest and the most ridiculous, mystical ideas about the 'Known', the 'Unknown', the 'Unknowable', the 'Untouched', the 'Untreated' and the 'Unfinished' spiritual processes are experimented and expressed by 'Truth', 'Half-Truth' and 'Untruth'. All kinds of sensible and all kinds of nonsensical spiritual ideas have thrived here, as lofty as the sky and as deep as the ocean, giving birth to major and minor religions of the world. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism are still going strong in the world and its birthplace. India is the religious hub of the world and home to all the major religions of the world. India is the forerunner of spiritual development. The ideals of compassion, empathy, pragmatism, and non-violence were born in India, by separating spiritual values from religious beliefs. This has been a source of inspiration for the rest of the world. Spiritual integrity in India was not developed by accident. It is the result of good intention, proper efforts, right direction and the glorious vision of the great Indian sages.

In history, nations were forged by the sword. India was built with the human spirit. The largest territorial Indian empire was once ruled by Ashoka, as a welfare state. He was an emperor, who at the zenith of his power, gave up everything and become a monk. Buddhism was the 'First' State and 'First' world religion established by him, he sent the 'First' batch of missionaries to neighboring countries. In his reign, humanity was the governing

principle, not supernatural matters. In recent history, independence of India from colonial rule too was attained by peaceful means by Mahatma Gandhi, a political leader, who lived like an ascetic and led India's freedom struggle against the British rule by a nonviolent civil disobedience movement. For centuries, India suffered under the barbarian rule of Muslim invaders who conquered India by the bloodiest Islamic invasion recorded in world history. Later, India was ruled by the British colonizers who raided and robbed India, as pirates and not as traders, they pretended to be. Despite atrocities by Muslims and British, India like an ancient old tree, extended its cool shade and safe shelter, even to those who had come to cut its roots. India is a non-violent country and tolerates all faiths, all races, and all nationalities. Indian culture promotes 'World as One Family' and recognizes 'Unity' in Diversity.

Compassion and non-violence are the Indian ethe. History testifies India never invaded other countries. The fervor of 'Renunciation', rarely seen in the world is the hallmark of virtue in Indian society, praised by sages and revered by the masses in India. 'Ram' was asked to leave his palace, so he left his luxurious home, and lived in the forest. He returned after fourteen years and established 'Ram Rajya' the epitome of good governance which India had never witnessed before. Buddha too renounced his princely life, in the prime of his youth, left his palace and went into woods to seek solutions to liberate people from sorrow. After his enlightenment, he spread the message of compassion and righteous way of living. Buddhism even today is the most sensible of all religions, as the great Buddha himself was. Mahavira, the founder of Jainism, also relinquished his kingdom, and lived a life in strict austerity, undergoing rigorous penances in the forest. As an apostle of non-violence, he practiced what he preached and dealt with the philosophy of relativity, in a unique and profound manner, which no one else before him did.

Historically, we find there has always been a strong resistance against religious reforms by the fanatics, leading to mass murders and demonic damage to life and property. No other country, except India, is the place where social reformers were able to change old religious precepts and practices, with con-

temporary spiritual understanding, appealing people to discard frivolous, fabricated and false religious beliefs, by debating the issue in an open assembly of people peacefully, without subverting the social order by any kind of violent protest. Today, educated people very well know that 'Holy books' are not the word of God, nor did they fall out of the sky. Holy books are actually a concoction of texts, written by authors, who lacked clarity, and whatever they wrote is baffling, indeed. There is nothing worse in writing, than not to understand what the author has written. Too often it's a lapse, ascribed to theologian's approach to events, which occurred several years before it was recorded in writing by them. It seems they didn't know how to script their observations truly and timely.

Buddha was the greatest social reformer. He introduced religious reforms in India by opposing 'Brahmanical Beliefs', rituals and animal sacrifices, with a gentleness and kindness, people had never felt, like this ever before. He showed the path of righteousness with dignity and dexterity, people had never witnessed like this ever before. He delivered discourses on rectitude with candor and clarity, people had never heard like this ever before. He preached a Godless creed in a world of Gods, with silence and sobriety, people had never imagined like this ever before. He walked gently on earth with ethereal and enlightened charisma, people had never seen like this ever before. Buddha's footprints are not erasable, his compassion incomparable. Buddha was Godless and yet so Godlike. He was the greatest spiritual leader the world has ever seen, and Buddhism is so sane and close to the universal truth.

Since Vedic age, society in India was open to debate. People were free to speak and criticize each other. This led to the growth of knowledge, and several schools of thought emerged, speculating on 'Absolute' and 'Relative' truth, and they even considered truth was 'Not This' and 'Not That', as truth was nameless they symbolically called it 'That'. Knowing 'That' was difficult to grasp. Yet, the elusive 'That' ignited their curiosity to know 'Something' unexplained and unseen that existed, beyond what they knew. When the mind goes beyond its limitations, there is nothing more or whatever to spare, except nothingness

a reflection of one's own ideas, staring back at them, as a mirror reflects an image and a voice an echo. Then they saw when 'Finite' merges with 'Infinite' the search to know comes to an end, and when consciousness knows consciousness, it opens the gate to 'Eternity', then the brain learns from metaphor, mind from its own realities, as the idea of infinity is hard to hold, so the ultimate wisdom is in becoming a part of the whole cosmic mystery, living to experience the life's journey on the pathless Eternity.

The stars, the sun, and the earth are like tiny dust particles, scattered in the vast, deep, empty and unfathomable space. Except for consciousness 'Nothing' exists there. Whatever exists in space comes from nothing and goes back to nothing. Nothing is the source of all that exists in space. There is no creator. Even Gods are born out of nothing. The impermanence of everything explains that 'Nothing' exists. Creation is just a brief event, a vibration in eternity that manifests in different forms from galaxy to amoeba. No phenomenon is experienced in 'Nothing' existence is interdependent and interconnected with consciousness. Consequently, things appear, disappear and reappear in recycled forms, while constant consciousness remains intact, when all objective and subjective perceptions halt, the search to find 'something' ends in 'nothing'. Since 'Nothing' is scary and boring, man invented a manmade world of fantasy so that mankind can live and die in illusions, with self-created delusions, as a purpose of life. It's a human mind that creates duality. It's the human mind that distorts reality and not the real world of existence.

Nothing is 'No thing'. The mystery of 'nothing' led to the idea of 'something'. Nothing is indefinable. Its essence is grasped intuitively. Intellect can go to a certain limit, beyond it, it cannot go. Intuition can, but intuition is too subtle to express, what is felt is only by instinct. So the views on 'Nothing' is not free from doubt, and doubt is dreadful. Is reality revealed in doubt? Indian thinkers negated, backtracked, somersaulted on the idea of 'Nothing' and found 'Something' out of nothing and revealed, beyond the physical forms, there is 'Consciousness', beyond consciousness there is 'Nothing', beyond nothing there is 'Eternity'.

Realizing no one can ever know the whole cosmic truth. In the overdose of views and in the maze of imagination, by placing round pegs in square holes, the definition of truth was lost, which is being revived now. When 'Change' captured their imagination, they noticed 'Laws of Impermanence' prevailed, and nothing was permanent in the whole cosmos. What is change? What has changed? Can 'Change' change itself? Such ideas spilled as mystical muse, scaling to the loftiest levels of human thinking. It is here they realized, not truth but stupidity, is a potent force, people follow blindly, religions masked as truth. Why does this happen? Nobody knows, perhaps the nonsensical is more attractive than the sensible.

Was all this thinking good? Indian thinkers lost in the jungle of thoughts, with too much information, were forced to think more and more. Thoughts they had resisted persisted, pushing the process of thinking to speed up. In the flow of too many thoughts 'Truth' is often lost. Therefore, they tried to grasp, what cannot be grasped, and what shouldn't be grasped. Thinking alienates and detaches the mind from its source. When the mind is freed from the mode of thinking, thoughtlessness makes it silent, waking the inner dormant energies. It is a doing, which is not a doing because we all are naturally plugged to our source. The more the mind aligns with thinking, the more it is distanced from its source. Think less and experience more is what the Indian sages advised, and to become a silent 'Seer' and witness every moment of life with full awareness, and stop seeking any meaning in life, as no purpose is served in cosmic eternity, so we should simply live, to experience being 'Alive' in infinity.

Indian thinkers' thought questioning led to understanding, and curiosity to new thoughts, so they felt it was good to debate a question with different views in the battle of wits, and not settle it without an argument. As questions can be answered in more ways than one, so they made an effort to question everything and come to terms with anything, even opposing views, risking reducing the sublime to silliness. When they raised the right questions, they almost got the right answers. When questions had no answers, they didn't stop but formulated more questions to get answers, and came up with more tricky ques-

tions to ask, and questioned the very questions they posed, and failed to get an answer. No answer was also a question. How far they fared, and how far was too far to dabble in questioning is still debatable. Questions posed by them show intellectual flight and answers the subtle depth of thoughts. Observations of Indian sages on 'Eternity' and 'Nothingness' are the finest mystical musings, churned by a philosophy that knows, it knows nothing. Beyond perception is transcendental mysticism, not knowing is the ultimate wisdom. Eternity is known by time, 'Time' is a measure, time doesn't exist, clocks exist, time is not constant, it's experienced differently in different galaxies, as fast time, slow time and medium time. 'Timelessness' in eternity, the everlasting 'Now', besides the impermanence of things reveals that 'Nothingness' exists.

Hinduism is not static, it's a living religion. Hinduism is the only unwritten, self-evolving religion in the world. It has no founder, no Holy Book, but a variety of gods, and Vedic traditions. Hindus don't follow any Holy Scripture. They are free to believe in one God, many gods or no God. This tradition was premeditated to accommodate people with different mental and emotional levels, enabling them to gradually reach the ultimate state of 'Eternity' and 'Nothingness', which is beyond the scope of 'Religious Beliefs' and 'Gods'. That's why Hinduism is not a religion; it is a philosophy of life. Hindus are not rigid. They are liberal, tolerant and are free to follow Dharma. Hinduism is devoid of heresy and blasphemy, it grants freedom of belief and worship. Recent incidents of 'Saffron Terror' are not an outcome of religious intolerance, but a retaliation to settle scores, and not to compete in terror campaigns with other extremists. Yet, it is so shameful, a ploy to demean a nation that stands for lofty ideals of compassion, non-violence, tolerance and secularism, the soul of Hindus. One wrong does not justify another wrong. This must end at once. Let the rule of law handle such problems, not the pundits or the sadhus.

Modern India is a secular State. Every religion flourishes freely in India. India is a 'Secular' state not by choice, but by compulsion to avert 'Clash of Religions', which led to massive killing and partition of India, in which two million innocent people were

slaughtered in the name of religion, to create Pakistan a new Islamic State, carved solely on the basis of 'Religion' and not on the merit of statecraft or geographical consideration. This happened not in ancient times but in the twentieth century, under the self-styled educated and civilized British rulers, who were driven by a colonial mentality focused on 'divide and rule'. It is hard to believe that medieval age statecraft could succeed in the modern age, under British rule. After having learned a bitter lesson, the Indian Government does not mix religion with politics, which is a deadly concoction, to flare up communal riots, but political parties in India still continue to do so, to polarize the voters, as their 'Vote Bank', thus staking our lofty principles to a trifling, just for temporary gains. In a democracy, people have the right to decide what is good for them, and for the country. Seeing the conduct of politicians in parliament, and the widespread corruption in all walks of life, it seems India has a long way to go. Dishonesty and bribery thrive in spoil systems. Can we free India from corruption? Can we replace petty politicians with good parliamentarians?

Religion was a nuisance in Europe till the cultural renaissance. Modern civilization has relegated all religions to the background. Currently, religion in Europe has no 'Locus Standi'. Besides, religions in other parts of the world are being marginalized. Sadly, nothing like this is happening in India. Here religious fads and fanaticism are exploited to an extreme level, by charlatans, self-styled Gurus, Babas, Swamis, Sants, and the conniving politicians to serve their vested personal, parochial and sectarian interest. These psychopaths and sociopaths are thrilled cheating trusting people. They derive a sense of power and authority over them with no sense of guilt, and they shamelessly take pleasure in cheating the gullible. However, the intelligentsia and sensible media raise a ruckus, by exposing them in print and electronic media. This is not sufficient. Government or Supreme Court of India, should take a stand, and end the 'Crisis of Cheating' innocent people, under the cover of religion, by dubious and useless Gurus and Swamis, who enjoy patronage, allegiance and connivance of politicians, who just want votes, at the cost of sacrificing their own Vedic culture, ethics and human dignity.

Historically, violence in religion was perpetuated to defend religion, force conversions and increase their number. In all religious warfare, conflicts created, locally or across the border, by Buddhism are negligible. Holy wars led by Christian crusaders and Jihads by Muslim invaders, went far beyond the levels of human tolerance and civility, taking a very heavy toll of human life. Today, when it comes to religious fundamentalism, it seems the world is suffering from Islamophobia. All Muslims are not terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims. We have to judge the issue in totality, and not target a single religion or the whole community, with freak statistics. However, the fact remains, except Buddhism all major religions of world, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism are equally responsible for this grave lapse. Since our social system is deeply entrenched in religions, therefore, the social and political effort is required to bring a systematic change. Religions are managed by religious leaders in connivance with the politicians if this nexus is known. We can easily create a system to introduce religious reform. If fundamentalist doesn't heed good counsel, will the politicians listen to initiate the change?

WHY THIS PROPOSAL?

Five thousand years ago, there was no religion, social and moral norms regulated the society. People were naive and believed natural phenomena were created by some 'Supernatural Being' who unleashed it from the sky, where he lived, to reward and punish people on earth. Mavericks exploited public ignorance to their advantage, by weaving weird tales of miracle, magic and madness, which eventually went on to become a religion, organized to serve their personal agendas. Since their stories entertained and inspired people, so their invented religions grew large enough, and became a public obsession, exceeding their own expectations. Later, these religions were used as a tool for social change, to formulate belief systems, attitude and behavior of people, in the expression of family, culture and social life. The 'State' also joined them by sponsoring their religions so that the common man could be exploited, fabricating it, as the will of God. In this way religion grew, became powerful, and was

seen as a panacea of all problems. Today, religions are looked down, as one of the biggest problem in the world. People now realize, theories and stories invented by religions do not deliver any more, as they did in the past.

People dislike the pundit, the mullah and the priest, who mumble in monologues, and defiantly decline dialogue with them, who desire to discuss the problems created by their religions. This is the main cause of people's rapidly waning interest in religions. Followers of religions realize that to pledge their life for heaven and hell is utter nonsense. But tellers of tales, sing holy verses, use hightech theatrics, and manage to attract a large number of people to their show. People are not there, for any religious congregation, but for music. The audience is not conversant with the language, in which the holy verses are sung, yet they come to attend a musical concert, as music has no language. The faith followers who know the language of holy books, read the written words and get stuck between lines, many skip the holy words, without trying to understand it. But those who see truth being distorted go against the holy words. If some meaningful verses are there, there are several meaningless verses in holy books. Today, right understanding and not religious scriptures is what the world is looking for. People in the world want to pursue reason, rectitude and reality, and not rigid redundant religions.

Religions speculate, create fear and keep people preoccupied with God and his commandments, and make the world look like a bad place full of sin. Natural evolutionary processes require human beings to be rooted in reality, and not brood or imagine inhabiting a make-believe place like heaven or hell, invented by the authors of religions. Only an open mind can go beyond the mental constructs, instincts and emotions, to a higher state of awareness. There is nothing wrong with the world. It's the mind that makes it wrong. A right mind is a correct choice to deal with wrong ideologies. Human mind needs a line of thought, which is right, to guide them to live life as natural human beings, and not spoon fed, from birth to death to follow a wrong line of thought, devised by religions, which leads to despair. Or else, in the elements of eternity, no one can tell, from where thoughts

originate, and where thoughts end, thoughts come without our conscious effort. In 'Nothingness' no one knows whether anything is meaningful or meaningless. When essence of 'Being' unfolds, we realize it's not state of 'Becoming'. When eternity is seen, in each moment there is no moment, but just the present moment the eternal 'Now'.

Religions are full of fictitious ideas, a pack of lies. We must hold religions are accountable for spreading false beliefs, impacting the thinking of the whole world irreversibly, in a wrong way. Religious people live in a make-believe world and cannot come out of it. Religions have impeded the natural growth of people and society, by fueling fantasies and fairy tales. Anything real makes no sense to them. If people, society and Governments cannot stop, the mental conditioning of the people by religions from birth, then the construction of a new world order, free from false religious beliefs cannot be achieved, and the massive organizational superstructure build by religions in all parts of the world cannot be dismantled easily. World needs a 'Psychological Revolution' to change the mindset of the people, from religiously conditioned mind, to a spiritually open mind, by stepping out from a world of fantasy, to a world of reality. Will people listen to the voice of truth? No one is as deaf as someone, who will not listen to the voice of his conscience, his cosmic connection the 'Soul', his true nature, and the real essence of all human beings, which never betrays them, what may come.

Religion characterizes culture and community. As such, religious beliefs and rituals are 'culture-community-centric' and not worldwide, as spiritual values are unique and universal. Muslim invaders and Christian missionaries succeeded in spreading religion in India 'Textually' by fair or foul means, but had failed 'Culturally'. Indian Muslims are culturally different from Arab Muslims, so are Indian Christians. Due to cultural incompatibility, converts have to constantly struggle to fit into the culture of a religion they come into. They try hard and fail, making themselves a caricature of culture. Yet, people by and large identify them being religious, in a group that comprises a common culture. Other than this, they don't stand for, a particular religion exclusively, which is far-fetched, because culture is insepara-

ble from religion. Even if religion and culture are two separate things, statisticians of a religion count the number of people in a cultural group as members of a religion, without assessing whether they stand for religion or for culture. Labeling them with a religion is just a game of numbers. Religious fanatics fudge figures with tainted techniques to cover-up their declining numbers, thus exposing that religion are now on their way out.

Problems created by religions have crossed all limits of human tolerance and leniency. The world has no choice, but to deal with, the ills of religion, without resorting to narrow-mindedness or intentional methods. Even if, religions have relegated spirituality to background, it has not lost its bearings. Spirituality is still the core of all religions, ingrained in the human mind, and hard to erase, but buried as a dormant desire, waiting to be revived and resurrected. Therefore, the objective of the proposal is to transform people from religiosity to spirituality, and to disconnect them from false religious beliefs, rituals and superstitions, and to connect them, with their natural state of 'Being', by stimulating their inborn spiritual impulses, because human beings are 'Spiritual Beings'. The author has developed a compendium of universal spiritual values, termed as 'Satyadharma', with the sole aim to differentiate spirituality from religion, knowing well that the solutions he proposes will bring its own peculiar problems, but this is how solutions are suggested. There are no foolproof solutions. However, for every solution, there is one that is better then what is still best to come with the passage of time.

Fragmented religions are fumbling on its fragile foundations, and are failing as never before. But suppressed spirituality is now, struggling to set free, from the shackles of rigid religions. The process has begun. Internal spiritual feelings of the people are surging to give a bold external expression. The educated are ready, and they want a road-map. At this stage, taking up religious reforms, may appear difficult, but a hard beginning often brings a good ending. The world is progressing by growth engines of materialism and technology, but unrestrained technology creates weapons of destruction, and an unequal economic distribution, with a huge gap between the haves and haves-not.

Both trends are bad for fair and equitable world order. Only spiritual wisdom can bridge this gap by oneness. People are ready to grasp spirituality with greater curiosity than ever before. This proposal will spur them towards spirituality, and spread the message of peace, economic equality and brotherhood. Even if, the idea of a 'Religionless World' today is considered a probability or an eccentric proposal, it will cease to be, when people start accepting it. Still, religious reforms may go as far as they may, and not as far they could.

Rebellion against old religions gave birth to new religions. Buddha opposed wrong religious practices prevailing in his time, so did Jesus Christ, and so did Prophet Mohammed. When these Godlike human beings departed from earth, opportunist took center-stage, encashed their popularity, and acted contrary to the cause they championed in their lifetime, and converted their religious reform movement into new religions called Buddhism, Christianity and Islam, which did not exist when the founders were alive, and thrived only after their deaths, by the efforts of the entrepreneurs of faith, who manipulated and used unscrupulous methods to spread these religions. Even the founder of newest religion Nanak, had set off religious reforms, and ended by setting up a new religion called Sikhism. It seems spiritual element is a part of the human DNA, which makes every human being a spiritual being, who hankers to hang on, to religion or spirituality, whatever may come. Founders of religions were spiritual leaders, they did not create religions. Religions are their 'memorials' built to entice people, by opportunists to serve their personal agendas, so their ideas of going beyond are as wrong as to fall short of it.

Founders of religions were criticized by their contemporaries for condemning the existing Gods and beliefs, as a blasphemous act against their religion. Ironically, the founders of religions had spent their whole life dissuading people not to accept false belief and false Gods. They basically promoted truth and right views through their discourses. Why should anyone object someone who is doing the same thing right now? Why people hesitate to support his demand for 'Religious Reforms' he seeks to update religions. Since religious reforms are needed so a hue

and cry against the so-called act of sacrilege is unjustified and unacceptable. For sure, modern man cannot adjust himself with medieval age religious beliefs, and the educated are the worst affected, because they have to constantly negate the nonsense of religions on a daily basis, to act diligently in their everyday life. Solutions come through discussions, not by preventing others from speaking out the truth. Suppressing freedom of expression is a gross violation of human rights. Therefore, one must air his views thoughtfully on religious reforms. Once the going gets tough, we need to get the facts right, because only 'Right Views' can find an easy acceptability.

People have two options to follow [1] A self-created belief-system based on spiritual values or [2] A belief-system created by organized religions, stage-managed by the priest, mullah or pundit. The former is ground reality, the latter a speculation. Religions attract adherents because it has a 'God' in the image of man, who fulfills their wishes. This is like a worldly path, easy to follow. So faith followers deliver a list of demands, offer prayers, and then its Gods duty to fulfill it. This is the reason why they follow God blindly, perform rituals and believe in all sorts of stupid superstitions. They believe problems created by religion can be solved by religion only, by doing so, they strengthen rigidity of religions. How can one problem solve another problem? Objective of the proposal is to free the world from the problems created by religions, and transform people at individual level, and not by a controlled crowd. It's difficult to change the world, except by changing the individual the world will automatically change. On the spiritual path the seeker progresses by self-effort, without seeking any external support of Gods or Gurus, prayers or rituals. Spirituality needs no institution, nor is it led by any bookish creed. Spirituality is a self driven path on which the walker walks alone like a rhino in the woods.

The author does not intend to create a new creed or an institution or built a personality cult. He negates the ideology of idiotism, and refrains from prescribing any Holy book, and resolves to avoid all these silly calculated blunders. It is not an individual who will lead but a team of 'Spiritual Advisors' will spearhead the plan. Spiritual matters are best served under a

collective leadership, where each member of the team thinks he is the one, who leads and manages the plan to tackle problems created by religions, and suggest workable solutions, considering cultural and ideological factors, along with other aspects such as a religionless world with spiritual empowerment, and the promotion of spiritual values, which will serve as the guiding principles of this plan. Few millenniums back, world was religionless, only spiritual values thrived, till the advent of organized religions. Consequently, the structure of each religion is built on the foundation of spiritual values. Theology too works in circles, what was once old is recycled as new. Finally, the time has come, for us to go back, to our spiritual roots.

Historically, contribution of religion to individual and society has been extraordinary. Religions had spread compassion, brought contentment and moral principles in the life of the people and society. But the unrest and turbulence religions create now overshadow their earlier role. In the past, religious reforms were ruthlessly resisted. Nothing has improved since then. Today religions are even more rigid than they were before. Seeing that the world has no alternative to offer, people are left with no choice, but to use religions as a crutch to go, as far it may lead them, and not as far as they could go. With the absurdities of religion, people have lost their way. Retrogressive religions have pushed people back in time. Now the questions arise. Can medieval age religions match a technology driven digital age? If religions in current age are outdated, how can they survive in the coming space age? We have to accept ground reality that not religions, but a religionless world, can fairly face the coming challenges. Religions have failed to keep pace with the changing time, overlooking the swift changes time brings with it. Then why wait any longer. Why not welcome the inevitable change, right now.

Religions promote a culture of separate identities, the cause to persecute and oppress. No religion is inferior or superior, yet religions humiliate each other. The need is to change the delusional world of religions into a realm of reality. World needs an idea that can inspire people to change and make the world religionless. Ongoing reinvention is the secret of continuity. All new

ideas subjected to analysis or justifications appear impractical, but the idea to change an established order is always considered subversive, destructive and dreadful. Who will decide what is right? Spirituality is a natural human quality, religions a man-made philosophy inherited by people from birth, who grow up as distorted and disoriented personalities. In any circumstances, be it what it may, if billion people believe in a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing. When the educated feel cheated, they crave for truth, where their spiritual urge can flourish freely, and nurtured naturally, without the compulsions imposed on them by religions, and its authoritarian institutions. People want to be free from the shackles of religions. It's dark before the crack of dawn. The age of spiritual awakening has come.

Idea of a common religion is dead. In a time when people are disillusioned with religions, that time is the right time to know, where we stand, and how to take religion, to the next level of reckoning. That's why people are getting close to spiritual reality, and therefore, the demand for religious reforms is a step in the right direction. This is not the last word. The author would like to have the last word by proving himself right, even if, he fails to convince people right now. This is a very tricky situation, which is not in sync with the character of change. People are no more interested to be judged by their religion. They want to know who they are, an idea triggered, typically by spiritual standards. When we set free all restrictions then contradictions can make some sense. Sometimes one knows that he really does not know. After all, we live and die in a world of ideas. At times, some ideas are reborn in the minds of others, and circulate around with a new vitality, visualizing a global society, with no ethnic, racial or religious contest for dominance or exclusivity, where people are not referred as white, black or brown, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu or atheist, but simply as human beings.

In the domain of cosmic consciousness everything is created, preserved, destroyed and then recycled in various forms under the laws of nature. This is the realm of the invisible, where a formless presence of God exists in space, as 'Cosmic Consciousness'. Beyond the formless God, there is the unmanifest, unborn,

endless eternity. In this empty space magnetism of nothingness is experienced. Beyond nothingness is the unknowable mystery, no one can ever know. So religions start from Holy books and end up with God, while spirituality starts from an individual and ends up in eternity, a difficult line of thought to grasp. In this situation one comes to know, what he knows is 'Nothing', and all destinations in cosmic interstellar space end in 'Eternity'. So, there is no place to come or go anywhere in the sky, except to be 'Alive' and experience the journey of life in cosmic mystery. Spiritual awakening is slow, so wake and sleep no more. Religions are unacceptable. They start and stop with God, a concept created by the authors of religions. We need to liberate people from all misrepresentations, mix-ups and mistakes.

REASONS FOR MAKING THE PROPOSAL

Religions create fear, hatred and divide people. The world is held hostage by fanatics who destabilize the life of peace loving people, society and nations, and ruin the progress of the world. Religions are tainted with the blood of innocent people. Terrorism in the name of religion is the biggest threat to global peace. Terror campaigns are the creation of wrong religious precepts, fictitious preaching, and false religious beliefs. Religions are responsible for retarding the minds of the people. Giving religions a free hand for neglecting the rule of law is unacceptable. International court of law must hold religions accountable for heinous crimes against humanity. It is time to rid the world from religions and build a new spiritual world order, where people can live with dignity, peace, harmony and co-existence in a multi-culture, multi-racial and multi-national assemblage of people, creating a spiritually evolved world civilization.

Religions spin stories full of lies and disarray the life of those who blindly follow them. Truth cannot be tailored. Lies can be shaped, fashioned and marketed by the wily and wise, who can twist on will the lies as gospel truth. When words fail to express feelings truly, it creates a momentary 'Gap' where silence of eternity resides. Time is linear and measures past, present and future. When 'Past' is lived, 'Present' enters to exit swiftly, and the unlived 'Future' too slips in so fast, even the mind can-

not grasp the fleeting presence of 'Present'. Present moment is glimpsed and not lived. The 'Present' swaps 'Past' with 'Future' that's all. Therefore, the 'Seer State' and not the measure of 'Present' time was eulogized by Indian sages, who exhorted people to live life in a 'State of full 'Consciousness' and not in the 'Frame of Time' because consciousness is the timeless eternal 'Now', referred as 'Here and Now' by Buddha. In time 'Present' moment is a split-second, it slows down in past and speeds up in future. Only in a timeless state, things happen simultaneously, because it is a 'single moment of eternity'. Religions are wrapped in past. Present is a bridge on the river of 'Past' and 'Future'. One shore offers growth, the other reduction. Choose the shore of growth, and allow time to travel, beyond the measure of time. In space, there are places where time is 'Still', it doesn't flow like in black holes, and other unidentifiable dimensions in space.

Holy books were written in ancient times, confined to certain geographical locations, under a common culture, using a dialect belonging to specific regions, intended to offer solutions to time related local problems, which are now irrelevant, and lack a universal appeal in the current context. The talking tongue in which the Holy Books were scripted is no more a living or a spoken language. Today, Holy Books are looked upon as relics of a bygone age, breathing in and out like the bellows of a blacksmith, with no vitality, yet resuscitated by the priest, mullah and the pundit, who keep the Holy Books alive, on the life support systems of religious institutions and preachers. Since people can't read or understand the language in which Holy Books are written, they judge Holy books by its silk draped cover, which adds no value to their real life, but serves as an article of worship, used for offering prayers, invoking the intervention of imaginary God(s) to help them fulfill their worldly wishes, and make no efforts to understand the contents of Holy Books, which any which way, ends in vain.

Life and everything around us is constantly changing. Change is the eternal law of nature. Religions resist change and have failed to keep pace with time, and have become redundant and useless. Religions resist attempts to change and bounce back.

Fanatics threaten people, who dare to reform religion. By a rigid adherence to status quo, the priest, mullah and pundit, submit followers to unrequited faith, on outdated Holy Books by spreading fear, if they don't, then the wrath of God will harm them. Handlers of religion brainwash staunch and stubborn faith followers to unbelievable extremes, insisting them to sacrifice their life to save the script of their tattered Holy books. Should the followers of Holy books defend the work of calligraphy by hara-kiri? Dying for religion is easy but living to spiritual values is difficult. The voice to change is loud but the lackadaisical will of blind followers and the 'States' deafness on the issue of religious reforms has strengthened the status quo of medieval age religions, reluctant to sync with modern age. The silly stoical stony silence of the State is unacceptable.

Ideas contained in Holy Books were written some thousand years ago. Since then world has changed drastically, and still there is no hope to revise the holy books. Can ancient Holy Books meet the expectations of modern age? Time ripens one and all. Today, people are more educated than they were before. People want religion to be redefined that is for sure now. But before reformatting religions, people must recognize the reality that changes in religions can disturb some considerably. Besides, people need to accept the fact that, even if the world becomes religionless, no one can be sure, whether things will get better or worse. Learned may think astutely and fools absurdly but change is necessary to become better. That's how the world works, by the orbital, rotational and repetitive laws of nature. Change when set in motion does not bring change instantly, it settles down slowly, by consent and support of people. However, it is truth and not falsehood that triumphs in the end.

Seeing preachers and religious leaders cajole crowds and entice people with sweet-talk, shows how the gullible can be misled so easily. It is hollow ignorance, herd mentality, hunt for happiness, and head for distinct identity, which is exploited by the charlatans. Cheating trusting people is a crime against humanity. Why the State hesitates to act against people who use religions as a business enterprise? Why State is not taking legal action against them? Why State is not addressing the problems

created by religions? Lack of regulatory resolve, by the State to check religions, from outwitting the rule of law is an anomaly, known even to a common man. Then why State and law-enforcement agencies are silent? We need to put pressure on the law-makers to bring the institution of religions, self-proclaimed God-men, the pretenders of faith, and those pedaling religion as a trade, under the ambit of a regulatory authority to prevent the atrocious abuse of religions.

Appreciating other's religion or opposing one's own religion or suggesting religious reforms is opposed by the zealots. They rattle with rage, and rabble rouse a war cry to take up arms, to save a religion in danger, thus creating fear psychosis, which helps them to fuel mass hysteria, leading to pandemonium, triggering a chain-reaction that spreads like fire, extending national frontiers, making a monster out of a molehill worldwide. Now, any nation can come under a terrorist attack, from any part of the world, and deviations are violently opposed by the militants. We have reached a breaking point of intolerance where even a slight religious provocation can lead to a nuclear war. What would happen if terrorist laid their hands on nuclear weapon? God save the world? The power of religion comes from followers scattered across the world, who make the institution of religion stronger than the 'State', which is detrimental to nations, who uphold the rule of law for good governance. As long people believe in reprehensible religions, fanatics will continue to commit atrocities in the name of religion.

When the regression of religions is taken up in 'public domain' or at the 'State level', it's brushed aside by saying that religion is a personal matter. Therefore, people and State should not interfere in religious matters. This is a travesty of truth. Religions are in public domain and not confined to a private or personal domain of the individual. Religions use a 'public-private' strategy to gain power, by twisting facts in their favor, to prevent people and the State to go against them. Religion has nothing to do with privacy. The way religious people do one thing alone, they tend to do most things, in the same way in public domain. Being proud and slavish to religious beliefs create fanatics, who can even die for what they believe. No one can be as foolish as a

fanatic can be. As such, all religious fanatics are a real threat to world peace and to the safety of the people, internationally.

People revolt against the 'State', when social frustrations arise, out of economic inequality. In past, the 'Rulers' established religions, to prevent social unrest, and at their behest, religious institutions were built, empowering religions with muscle and money, so that the willing cleric could conspire and prevent rebellion against the State, by creating the fear of God, and offering celestial compensation to the 'Have-nots'. Money was condemned and poverty was praised to divert public attention from the rulers, forcing people to accept that their miserable fate was the will of God and not due to State failure. This conspiracy succeeded at the cost of espousing false religious beliefs. Initially, this is how all major religions were promoted, institutionalized and funded by the rulers and the State. No religion could have survived on its merit alone. Using the same precedent, democratic countries must now, dislodge religions in order to correct the historical error. 'State' is the most peaceful tool for social change. Rest all other means create social disorder, which is against social civility, human dignity, and the rule of law.

Today, commonsense is not common, but when the nonsensical becomes common, then nonsense supersedes commonsense, and reason and truth suffers. That's why reality is not what religions conjure up a make-believe world. Truth is much deeper than what meets the eye, and hard to comprehend, with our limited human faculties, to know the whole existence. Religions must know how far it can go, and not go too far, crossing the limits of sublimity to plunge in the abyss of stupidity. Following false religious beliefs is living a life full of lies. Life is too short to go wrong by the manipulators of religions. Fiction has to make sense and not facts. There is a need to widen wisdom and abate the absurd without reanimating religions, if science cannot replace religions then 'Spiritual Standards' alone can rid religions as a suitable alternative. The human DNA has an inherent spiritual element, or in other words human beings are spiritual beings.

Digital age is the most decisive moment in history. People want a better understanding of the world, and realize that deci-

sions they take now will influence the course of human destiny in the future. But the narrow minds of the priest, mullah and the pundit cannot envision the crucial moments of 'Change'. Time does not wait. By now world has already entered next millennium. Human race is destined not only to live on planet earth, but dwell on other planets in the cosmos as well. Therefore, we need to set the human mind, free from religions, and move ahead with open-mindedness to fulfill a lofty mission. When we see this reality materializing in the near future, then we see our mind in it, and wish others to see what we see too. Then things begin to change. If, we want people to change, to begin with, we must first change ourselves, so that others can follow. We have to assist each other to come out from our dependence on religions, and to rely on the spiritual wisdom and its realities.

Conscious mind craves to fulfill worldly desires, sub-conscious mind to quench spiritual thirst, super conscious mind longs to merge itself with cosmic consciousness. All three stages are woven by consciousness the ultimate reality, which pervades, but perceived by the mind in a different way, caged in its crusted stages. All living beings are the expression of cosmic consciousness. Therefore, living life with full consciousness is the aim of human being. The proposed plan will engage people with an open-mind, persuade them to discover their deep inner being, and urge them to devise their own methodology, and own regulations to live a meaningful life, as natural spiritual beings, free from any control or canons, of scripted spiritual standards. Essence of life is in taking decisions on the basis of personal experience, and not based written or blind religious beliefs. Whole philosophy of human life revolves around naturalness, and not on make-believe situations. So, 'Be Natural' and 'Live Naturally' is the motto of life, rest all is useless talk, invented by insecure minds, panicked by pitching false fears, abusing the natural survival instincts, and taking advantage of man's constant struggle, to survive the uncertainties of life.

We live in a mind-marshaled world, shaped by human thoughts and dreams, and so are all religions man-made. In this digital age, material inclinations govern human life, as a result, people's spiritual leanings are weak, and they are at the mercy of their

own destructive gadgets and inventions. In material age, people rush to gather more and more material possessions by hook or crook than what is necessary or needed. Today money is more attractive than morals and virtues. A person's selfishness and greed ends nowhere. Like a lunatic people are obsessed with money. In this rat race they hardly find time to enrich themselves spiritually, and repent on their deathbed as accredited fools, so heed the advice of the sages. When death takes away the moneyed man empty handed, people inquire what assets he has left behind, while on other hand, when a spiritual person dies his deeds go with him, and the scent of his actions lingers long in memory. Some say he is gone, some ask where he has gone, and some think he lives in the deeds of people who follow him. What is true after death no one knows? Even Buddha opined death is not the end. It's a part of a holistic existence. Can we put this fact for a validation test?

Possession of too much money wasn't rated higher than acquisition of wisdom by sages, because they opined, even a devil and a dodger, a pickpocket and a prostitute, a criminal and a cheat, a rogue and a rascal, could easily accumulate money by mere deception, but not wisdom which is nurtured by righteousness. Cultivating wisdom was once considered a virtue and chasing money a vice. This is not true now, resulting in the erosion of ethical values. Earning moderate money is a social need for living a decent and dignified life. But life under the monopoly of more money than required is unethical, as it leads to lavish and vulgar lifestyle, inflates human ego and pride, promotes dishonesty and greed. All these factors are enemies of spiritual values. Neither money nor material possessions can give happiness. By leading a simple contented life, happiness follows like a shadow. So, live by righteous and modest means. Life's challenges are best negotiated by material and spiritual values needed and fused together. Spirituality is not against money, religions are, and see money as a devils trove. Money can decline in value and stolen, not wisdom which increases its worth and is difficult to steal. So, a judicious mix of money and spirituality is necessary to uplift human beings from baser to higher levels, and create a 'Selfless Affluence' by equitable

distribution of wealth, among the 'Haves' and 'Haves-not' for the collective contentment of people.

In the fast changing material world, spiritual values are losing its ground, so people want an element of spirituality in their life. Engrossed in a hectic monotonous material life, people lack the time to read voluminous Holy Books, written in a language they cannot read, write or understand. They have no time even to read the commentaries on Holy books written in the language they know. But those who read the Holy books cannot digest the overdose of fantasy and lies contained there, and come out more confused than they were before. In this utter confusion their feelings freeze, and they falter, and fail to find the reality they seek. Heavy doses of dogmatism and mythology, adds zing and zest to Holy books, which makes religion difficult to relish as a reality. Everything that has come will pass, so will religions go down in history books. But spirituality has a mission, the higher evolution of man, so let us all give spirituality a chance to accomplish its task.

There is nothing wrong with religions. Religions are outdated and not relevant anymore. What is frustrating is the rigid religious restriction that prohibits the revision of Holy Books. Commentaries and interpretations, written by wise and foolish authors, and sold in the market dime a dozen, try to keep old Holy Books updated. People, who read them, find that one author's opinion differs from another author views, and there is hardly any similarity in their observations. Generally when authors lack clarity, they tend to cite examples, to make the message of Holy books, easy to understand. Sadly, despite all this hard work, even the best of the authors, cannot take away the vagueness in Holy Books, with no recourse to change. Even the priest, mullah and the pundit find it hard to explain the real essence of Holy Books, as with time, the words, its meaning and its usage change to a great extent. Once, what was meaningful is now meaningless. Truth does not require examples, commentaries or interpretations to explain the meaning of truth. Truth is revealed by easy expression, because truth is simple and self-explanatory.

Even today, people believe Holy Books are the word of God, and refuse to accept as true, that Holy books reflect the views

and memories of an early age. Religions had evolved as a solution to social ills prevailing at a given time in the history of medieval age. So, accepting Holy Books as a timeless truth is incorrect. It is the work of historians to archive old and obsolete books. For sure, outdated books are not meant to be followed foolishly. People should make out what is right and what is wrong. Truth is not the copyright of Holy books. How can time-worn books stay relevant without being updated? When Holy books are seen to mislead people and distort truth, then something is surely wrong with the holy books. Can we dig diamonds from rusted iron ores?

Heinous crimes and mass murders of people in the name of religion are among the rarest of the rare crime, committed by religions against humanity. Today, terrorist acts and senseless killings by religious fanatics and militants are not acceptable to the civilized world. How can people, society and national governments remain silent on this serious issue, over an indefinite period of time? The time has come for intellectuals and lawmakers to question the relevance of religions. Can religions keep pace with world's current progressive outlook of 'One World' and 'One Global Family'? Sadly, disruptive and divisive religions have split the world into religious groups. The world is now torn apart with extreme hatred for each other's religions. When a man kills a man to uphold his religious beliefs, it is difficult to follow such stupid Holy Scriptures, anymore.

Religious institutions and their functionaries are to be blamed for misleading the faith followers. Why these institutions shouldn't be scrapped? Old structures collapse in a changing social order on its own. At the end of one's labor to bring change does not work then change is fated to happen in next. It's only a matter of time that the issue of religious reforms will be taken up. So the contradiction between the 'Decision to Act' and the 'Hesitation to Act' is to be sorted out judiciously. A well-timed act is a good judgment, but circumventing change comes to pass, as a bad judgment. Therefore, opposing change is futile. Change will eventually take place, whether people like it or not. It has happened in the past, it will happen now, and will happen in future too. The question is when? Religions managed to

survive untouched by time for several thousand years, which is a long time in human history, but a split second in cosmic time. Now, the time is ripe to relegate religions to the background.

Learning all religions of the world must be made compulsory for all school going children for a comparative study, so that they can understand the impact of religions on people objectively. Students should stay away from religious institutions, holy places, veneration of Holy books and religious preachers. Having studied all religions, then each grown up student should decide independently, without being manipulated by others, whether he wants to accept or reject a religion, or follow no religion, or would like to pursue spirituality, a decision, the student will make himself, no one else will assist him to do so, nor will his parents influence him, nor will society force any religion on him, at the time of his birth. Why should a child inherit his parent's religion? It is his birthright to choose his own religion. After all, religion is a lifestyle issue, tagged on from birth till death, so no one has the right to impose it forcefully on others. This is a violation of human rights, and therefore, it is not acceptable.

Silence is preferred over serious religious indiscretion, by the people and the State, fearing violent repercussion from religious fanatics and militants. This shared social silence probably comes by visualizing the damage religions can inflict on people, society and the State. Religions have always suppressed dissent with barbaric brutally, and supported their heinous crimes, as religious rectitude. Historically, religions have killed more people than the number of deaths caused by natural disasters and wars put together. The frightening track record of religions is enough to keep alive the conspiracy of silence. If the world sees that religions have an expiry date, their silence will break and force religions to behave with civility, and not respond to differences by savage and cruel ways.

Today, a large number of people in the world, young and the old evince great interest in 'Spiritual Matters' and wish to know the fundamental spiritual question. Who am I? What is the purpose of my life? Where do I go when I die? Majority of people throughout the world want to learn, the lessons of life from a practical 'Manual of Life and Living', and not from 'Holy Books'

which are full of fictitious beliefs, and far from ground realities. As a result, people are not inclined to believe in any statement of faith, but are eager to know the plain facts of life. Generally, People seek to know 'What we are' and 'How to live life in harmony' with 'Self and Society' at the 'individual level' and not as a crowd in the assembly of a 'religious mass', under the authority of cleric, institutions, self-proclaimed Babas, Gurus and swamis, available dime a dozen in India, who swindle simpletons and the gullible. This is against Vedic culture, it is a social evil. These charlatans must be exposed sooner the better.

This proposal will unfold the problems and blunders of religions, and urge people to judge for themselves what is good for them, and what is good for the world, and what promotes personal welfare, and what promotes public welfare, and what harms an individual, and what harms public interest. Apart from individual assessment, author proposes to go ahead, for a worldwide consensus on this issue as well. Faith in religious beliefs and rituals is due to lack of knowledge and ignorance. Fictitious ideas are enemies of knowledge, so simpletons fail to see the real objective of human existence, and waste their whole life following vague religions by praying and praising Gods, and following foolish beliefs, rites and rituals. The ultimate goal of the proposal is to set the world free from false religious beliefs, and promote spiritual values, with the objective to enhance the evolution of humanity, and take society to a higher level of spiritual growth, from the foundation of facts and reasonable reckoning.

Faith followers praise, preach and protect their religion and condemn other's religion. Such depraved acts lead to hostilities and hatred, which lowers the human dignity, to the level of animalism. People must follow the principles of rectitude, and intellectuals of society should invalidate the disinformation spread by religions, allowing no one to mislead people, anymore. False precepts, religious beliefs, and terrorist acts, done in the name of religion must come to an end soon. Religions have tortuously troubled the tranquility of the civilized world by threatening and terrorizing ordinary citizens with blood spattering clashes and barbaric carnage. How long can the world bear this? Should people follow religions preaching and promoting belligerence

and bloodshed? Let the priest, the mullah and the pundit answer and talk to each other, what the people of the world want to know.

The future of religions has fallen into the hands of those who are unworthy of it. The terror campaigns carried out are nothing less than a proxy war on civil society. If this is not stopped in time, it can escalate into a huge clash of civilizations, and draw many nations into an unstoppable major world war. The stockpile of huge nuclear arsenal can wipe out the whole human race from planet earth, creating a frightening scenario, which is terrifying indeed. Can the world shut its eyes and let religions destabilize the peace of the world? The root cause of the problem lies in the authoritarian power of a centralized institution of religions, managed by undeserving people who foster fanatics to kill innocent people. How can the world take this issue lightly?

The world has given enough time to religions to flourish, almost five thousand years, without a break. It's a very long innings, indeed. Political systems, civil and criminal laws, words and languages, social and cultural traditions, civilizations and nations, none could manage to retain a status-quo, and underwent drastic changes, in the frame of time. History is a testimony to this reality. Surprisingly religions haven't changed. So it's fair enough, for people to demand, and for the State to decide to change the existing format of religions, for the benefit of people, and for the peaceful co-existence of mankind, now or never, before it is too late. Eventually, it is truth and not falsehood that must succeed in the end, after a long wait.

PARTICIPATORY & PREPARATORY REVIEW OF REFORMS

Social life depends on the peaceful co-existence of diverse cultural and religious groups, and the manner in which people relate to each other. The tolerance level of one religion with other religions is an important indicator, which gives an idea about the cultural composition of the society. Fundamentally, for all intent and purpose, the whole superstructure of the society is built on the foundation of religions. Thus, the ills of society are obviously ascribed to the incompatibility of religions with ground realities, and also when people see that one religion

is estranged with another religion in a cut throat competition of head counting of faith followers. Religion at spiritual level is good for human inquisitiveness but when religion is used as an instrument to create social disorder then religions are socially unacceptable by the people, society, nations and the world.

The old order of religions is crumbling giving way to new structures. In this vicious situation the mother of all religions 'Spirituality' is seen to stand out alone, from all rest existing religions, cults or sects. Even science cannot replace religions because from where the quest of scientific venture ends, the vistas of spiritual seeking begin. The truth of spirituality is ready to reveal, and rise above all religions, as the single exemplar, capable to impart higher social standards and ethics, by touching on human sensibility, and not on the sin of the soul by promoting spiritual values, and not any useless religious rituals, by encouraging self-help and not seeking the help of Gods, thus changing the religious mindset of the people thoroughly. Changeover of religions into a better format based on universal spiritual values is an upheaval task. But this should not deter the 'Change-Makers' to initiate the process, to accomplish the mission, after all, a long journey begins with a single step.

Mentally and emotionally all intellectuals have given up religions. Now, even the well-read, the well-informed, and the well-educated are distancing themselves from religions, while some show inclination to pursue spirituality the core of all religions, which brings wisdom with wrinkles that don't hurt. Unlike intellectuals, people are unsure and hesitant because they feel spirituality lacks clarity and a road-map to lead the people on the spiritual path, and meet their spiritual aspirations. The element of uncertainty has risen, because there are innumerable definitions, and countless explanation to define spirituality, which has turned the word 'Spirituality' into a vague term. To clear confusion, the author has delved, devised and defined the broad features of spiritual values and explained it in simple terms, retaining its distinctiveness and universal appeal intact. However, for the sake of clarity, consolidation, and convenience, the author has termed the format of synthesized spirituality as 'Satyadharma' an expression, which encapsulates the universal

spiritual values and wisdom.

It is true that the world cannot exist without hope and faith. People want to reject redundant religions, but at the same time, they need a spirited spirituality that can make their life worth living. So, we do intend to serve this particular purpose. Our proposed plan will start from an armchair discussion and proceed to spiritual activism, expanding its reach with opinion building exercises, to create a global awareness about spiritual values. The objective of the proposal would be to reveal reality, as it is, and give valid reasons to discard false religious beliefs, created by religions, and followed by fanatics with sadistic consequences. Launching a campaign to remove religions from the world is a herculean task, with the countless hurdles laid on its way. So, people need to strengthen their resolve to build a 'Religionless World', with collective consent and persistent endeavor. Any ideology forced upon others is useless. Therefore, people's participatory and preparatory review on religious reforms is necessary to spearhead this movement.

The author has done a study on the relevance of religions in context with today's world, and has dwelled on the universal spiritual values to define 'Satyadharma' the fulcrum of spiritual values, and has drawn plans to promote it as a suitable alternative to religions. As a solutionist, the author will try his best to generate a comprehensive understanding of spiritual standards and values, to draw the attention of people to the problems created by religions, and suggest solutions. Since change does not come by forcing things, so he has set the plan in action to wait and watch the way it takes off to reach a logical conclusion. Once the ball starts rolling, it will not stop. Then what we want, may not happen, but something surely will happen differently, in a way we can't see right now.

We also need to devise means and methods on an ongoing basis, to bring a meaningful change in the mindset of people. By highlighting the inadequacy of religion and by promoting a sense of self-sufficiency, only Satyadharma or Spirituality can change the life of the people, and provide practical pointers, required for the progressive development of human race, based on ground realities of 'Life and Living', so that no one is lost, while

travelling on the criss-cross road. These are areas of preparatory and participatory efforts to implement the plan.

CHANGES ENVISIONED

Everything in the world is constantly changing, even civilizations rise and fall, even political regimes come and go, and even old schools of thoughts are replaced with new schools of thoughts. Resisting natural process of change is to go against the procedure of regeneration set by the laws of nature. But those who defy 'Change' fan feeble flames of sleeping simmering fire that can blaze to burn the unyielding into an inferno by its range and reach. Simply to avert such disasters, we must change when it is necessary to change. Nothing is fixed everything must come to an end. What the world perceived yesterday is not the same today, and what is perceived today, may not be the same tomorrow. The inevitable wonder of change never ceases to prevent change any which way.

Some people fail to learn to adapt to constantly changing world. Mind is never too old to learn. Human curiosity craves to discover something more, and pine for what lays yonder, the frontiers of knowledge, an endless pursuit to find something new. There is no end to human seeking, nor is there a way to know where the seeking ends, in the endless domain of eternity. It's like finding a needle in a haystack, or trying to solve a jigsaw puzzle, where a whole lot more of unsolved riddles remain unanswered. Knowledge is fleeting, and erased soon by new discoveries. The difficulty to adapt to new environment or to register a new line of thinking depends on the predisposition of the mind, which often resists change and sticks to stability, so that it can move uninterrupted, in its familiar web of patterns created by the mind, constantly engaged in adjusting its psychological processes, to keep the mind's comfort zone undisturbed. Human beings are habitual to the 'typical' and overlook the 'beneficial'. As a result, they foolishly resist change and stagnate. If people look back, they can never go ahead.

Social systems evolve in the manner in which people relate to each other. Social life basically depends on the peaceful coexistence of all the members of the society. Essentially, all soci-

eties the world over are built on the foundation of religions. The monopoly of religions in social life has shaped and influenced societies everywhere, even though the evolution of mankind resulted from the development of ethics and reason, but societies in the world evolved from culture and religions. Now, transformation of religion to spirituality is the next evolutionary step in the history of mankind. This plan is the 'catalyst to change' the current medieval world of religions to a futuristic religionless world of spirituality, the understanding of human and cosmic consciousness.

Religious reforms should be a part of an ongoing process to introduce requisite changes that are relevant to time. When issue of religious reform is discussed, it creates tussle, tension and turmoil among 'Caretakers' of religions, when they are persuaded to make proposed changes in their respective Holy Books, they refuse to heed. So, all efforts to reform religions end in nothing. Change is the need of time, and time to reforms religions by public consensus has finally come. We need to create public awareness so that people are convinced to accept what is relevant, and abandon what is irrelevant, and throw it in the dustbin of history. A well conceived plan to usher religious reforms, even before it is implemented, is surely a step in the right direction. Or else, changes thrust by 'Sporadic Events' are often lopsided, ill conceived and bad for the progress of people, and the social order.

World over, religious extremists execute terrorist acts without fear and kill innocent people. World is terrified and does not know how to come out from this horrible deadlock. All this has happened, as there is a lack of political will to tackle this problem head-on. The decision-makers and law-makers both are silent spectators. They have failed to keep the militant religions in check. Merely regulating laws to deal with religious extremists will not solve the problem. They will mushroom here and there again. State needs to strike at the root cause of the problem, and pull down the hotbeds of fanatics, institutions and nations breeding them. We cannot single out or blame one religion for this impasse, no religion is free from the allegations of sponsoring this deadly menace. All religions are equally responsible, in

one way or the other. This criminal conduct of religions is unlawful, and the unbecoming of real religions in the eyes of the people, who revere so devotedly.

Religion is an ethical tragedy. The calamity of religion starts from conversions, and ends by its own conservation. On way to expand their influence, religious zealots don't hesitate, to kill innocent people in the most brutal bloodbaths, perpetuated by religious beliefs, to keep things the way the caretakers of religious institutions and their leaders want it to be. Who has given religions the license to kill? Who has given them the freedom to spread false beliefs, superstitions and fan the fire of communal hatred? Are we living in a lawless world like outlaws? Isn't this the foremost responsibility of the State, the lawmakers, the decision-makers and intellectuals of the society, to create a congenial atmosphere in the world, where religions can be judged on its merit, and not on fear psychosis, religion intentionally create among people for its survival? When will the State intervene to end this problem?

Religions are intolerant and least religious in the sense they should be. The victims of religious atrocities cry out for justice, in vain. World leaders must ensure religious tolerance and pursuit of right religious values. It is the duty of all national governments in the world to make this happen. In India religion has no name. It is without a founder, unlike all other religions. It is a nameless entity called Dharma. Hinduism is an ever evolving process of human thought. It does not ordain to follow any Holy book. Hindu dharma is a philosophy that encapsulates the universal laws of nature, and universal spiritual values that promote harmonious co-existence of people, with their natural environment. The word Hindu was given by the barbaric illiterate Muslim invaders. Is it appropriate for Indians to use a colloquial slur Hindu in free India? Can we use the right word 'Vedic' instead of the historically incorrect remark 'Hindu'? Let Vedic scholars decide. Calling the followers of Sanatan Dharma as Hindus is wrong. Just as the British have an unwritten evolving constitution and practice the best ethics of democracy. Likewise Vedic dharma is the only unwritten evolving religion in the world, with a uniqueness, which stands out on its own.

The arrival of religions on the world stage can be traced back to 5000 years ago. Historical and current track record of religions in terms of promoting human values is very poor, indeed. While the track record of killing people in the name of religions is extremely high, which even today, religions keep on adding the score dreadfully high, with larger numbers, in terms of killing and death tolls. It seems religion and reason doesn't blend well. Religions world over, survive on the fragile foundation of fear and faith and not on human values and truth, which religions preach, but do not practice. The world has given religions enough time to thrive. Time to reinvent religions has come. Time does not wait, so the world must hasten to replace religions with spirituality.

Taking on one religion by another religion is important to evaluate the level of tolerance society has reached. All societies in the world are erected on the foundation of religions, and every human being on earth is born with a religion thrust on him from birth. There is a strong public resentment on this unconventional custom, which takes away the right of the person to choose his religion freely. Once a person is branded with a particular religion at birth, he is brainwashed, his mind conditioned, his conduct proscribed, and his attitude, beliefs and behavior, determined by the priest, the mullah and the pundit, and by the Holy books of one's inherited religion. When religion is imposed in the formative years of life, it creates a constant struggle in the mind, to retain or attain, what religion tell them to do, thus losing sight of the real purpose of human life, in a life lived once and not twice. World must scrap this unethical slavish convention of inheriting a religion from birth under the violation of human rights.

The proposal intends to unmask religions to reveal its original face, and draw attention of people on the misuse and mishandling of social issues by the institutions of religions and the fundamentalists. After a lapse of so many years of religious wrongdoings, going back in time almost five thousand years ago, it still continues unabated, without a break, even today. So, it's appropriate for the author now, to at least seek religious reforms in the 21st century. This is quite a reasonable demand.

Religious authorities and leaders, who zealously guard the old school of thought, should now consider conceding and accepting the genuine demand raised by the author. Religion as an institution has had a long inning. It is time for religions to pack up and bid farewell. After all, religions have controlled and exploited the minds of the people far too long, with the active connivance of the State, priest, mullah, pundit, parents, family, school and society. Author sees the make-believe syndrome created by religions, as a debilitating intellectual sickness that has retarded the rational evolution of the human mind.

The preparation to build a religionless world is a futuristic idea, likely to face a fierce resistance from powerful lobbies, who can shred the proposal to pieces, even before the author can think to achieve, anything worthwhile in this regard. Yet, the glimmer of hope comes from intellectuals, educated, young and elders, who are open to discuss the utility of useful suggestions. They are the people, who are the catalyst to bring the change. Eventually, the acceptance and rejection of the proposal depends on public consensus. The demand for reforms is not a slogan or a call for revolution. While dealing with this issue, all confrontational tactics are to be avoided strictly. However, the weapon of wisdom can be used in public debate to analyze the merits of the proposal with ponderous gravity, and turn it into a reality. After all, the idea of a religionless world is just a line of thought, floated by the author for the people of the world to consider and decide by consensus and not to force the idea on any person.

The proposal will not dogmatize a new theology. But tell people to appreciate the spiritual values at personal level, through self-study and self-exploration, as spiritual knowledge is an inner experience, sensed and not explained. Consciousness is a subtle energy felt as a frequency or a vibration or an impulse, something words fail to tell the connection between the 'Seer' and the 'Scene'. We all are one consciousness, and live the life of the mind. By shifting attention on consciousness, we can transform our whole being by the awareness of oneness. Connection of human consciousness with cosmic consciousness is the ultimate spiritual goal. It is the union of soul with Godliness.

At this point, consciousness transcends body-mind, to reach the realm of ultimate truth, whereas religions as we all know are an external experience meant for the masses. Followers of religion are driven by blind faith, false beliefs, mandates and meddling of religious institutions, priest, mullah and pundit in personal affairs of faith follower's life. If people were to live with dead dogmas and external promptings of religions, they can never experience the real essence of spirituality in their lives. This is a wrong, an error to be fixed, right now.

Intellectuals, educated and the young find this proposal interesting. But fanatics may clamp it as a blasphemous act, while narrow-minded and short-sighted faith followers may see it as salacious propaganda, carried by the author, who bends truth to suit his line of thought, to provoke and corrupt the minds of people. The idea of a religionless world will certainly infuriate and inflame the minds of fundamentalists as an intimidating proposal. Strong retaliation cannot be ruled out. But, when it comes to decide on matters concerning public consensus, people often doubt the means adopted to implement the plan, and see failure, even before it starts happening. Let us assume, if the objective of the proposal is not achieved by public consensus, then means can change, by perusing the matter through State legislation, or by some other suitable option, without changing the goalpost. Where there is a will, there is a way and the means too, to attain right objectives, for the good of humanity.

In the past, people protested and opposed 'Old Religions' and introduced 'New Religions'. Thus, they failed to replace the basic fundamental format of the religions they had opposed. As a result, people are still reeling under the stagnant ideology of rigid religions. This proposal proposes to replace all rigid religions, not by recasting old religions in a new replica, or reanimate them in any other similar form of religion, but by replacing all old religions, with a 'Religionless Religion' that will recapture the spirit of the sacred ideals, in a distilled version of universal spiritual values called 'Spirituality' in English, and in Sanskrit as 'Satyadharma' on author's preference.

In fact, every human being is born as a unique person. Sadly, religions have treated people like a herd, not on a one-to-one

basis. Therefore, all faith followers blindly follow religious beliefs with a herd mentality. Spirituality is the only righteous way to know and experience one's own unique nature, and work on it in a distinctive way for one's extraordinary inner salvation, by a method that is exclusively relevant to an individual, distinguishable in different ways, temperamentally by different people. So, stop being shepherd by religions as a herd of sheep, religions cast followers to be. Seekers are self-driven to spirituality. So the Faith followers stagnates society, and self-driven spiritual seekers make the world a better place to live. Spiritual values don't create seekers with shut minds but people who bloom with compassion with a heart that pours out love. Deeds and not faith travels on the journey of human life. Therefore, let us recognize the fact that 'Religion and Spirituality' are as different as chalk and cheese can be.

CHAPTER 4

Pros and Cons

Analysis allows evaluating and identifying the vast spectrum of diverse views and not as a prescription

Making the world 'Religionless' is a difficult task. And the biggest challenge is how to convert the idea into reality. The idea may be innovative and inventive, but it seems the world is not ready to accept it right now. Therefore, we need to examine the idea in its totality. We cannot rely simply on suppositions, assuming things will get better sooner or later, without evaluating its 'Pros' and 'Cons'. We should know well where we actually stand, and what we discuss is the best option available for us to choose. Sometimes we need to step back to analyze, whether it is prudent and practical to push the idea when external environment is not conducive to concur. No idea can guarantee success. A world with religions is as true as a world without religions is. Things can change dramatically with time, and that time is 'Now', to put intent into action.

The countdown has begun. When will this embryonic idea materialize, we do not know. The matter is under dynamic scrutiny of people who take this teething topic as tentative, and talk about it tenaciously in public domain. Such open-ended ideas for the common good of humanity possess the propensity to spread spontaneously, with speed and spiral, across the world for people to judge. Before it happens in unstructured, unbalanced, unintelligent manner, people of the world must deal with this issue, seriously and sensibly, right now.

What are the 'Pros' and 'Cons' of the proposal? Is the idea to create a 'Religionless World' achievable or not? Is the proposed change good or bad, as the existing status-quo of religions? Is a world without religions more desirable than a world with religions? Whether political, government, cultural and demographic considerations help or hinder religious reforms? Can we shatter the shackles of religious rigidity? Isn't religion a big business,

traded by the priest, mullah and the pundit? Can a person who never climbs ever falls? So, why should the author hesitate to pitch his proposal and make a public presentation, when the opportunity to do is right before him? Why should he fear to fix religions? When he is right, does it matter if someone agrees or disagrees with him?

Before we describe this, as an advantageous change, and see it as a progressive, pragmatic, prospect to pitch, we should than know well whether the projected plan can make the present position better or lead to worsening of the current state of situation. We realize words are not undone, words create illusions, and they instill the power to proceed and perform action. So, we need to be tactful and tactical, and not to spin a sensitive subject with lies or useless words lost in details, while dealing with religious issues, or else it can ping across the world, hurting the feelings of the supporters and saviors of religions, which is not the intention of the author, except that he wants to explore and unfold the secrets of a better prospect, positioned beyond the scope of all religions.

Therefore, readers must evaluate the 'Advantages' and 'Disadvantages' of the proposal, and only thereafter, they may decide, whether they should accept or reject, the suggestions proposed in the proposal. There is no compulsion, no 'Ifs' and no 'Buts'. It is a free choice. To you is your 'World with Religions', and to me is my 'World without Religions'. It is not a battle of wits other than to clear the logjam willingly. Religious reforms are a blessing in disguise, its harsh realities serve to expose the lies people are not prepared to face them head-on. Sometimes people have to undergo trials and tribulations to know the truth. The old adage 'as we sow so shall we reap' is the immutable law of Karma. So, rising above lies to seek the 'Truth' is a step in the right direction.

Be it known, the world is now ready for 'public debate' on the issue of religious reforms. Readers can air unbiased views on this issue, as a consensus of consent or retreat by rejecting the proposal or examine the suggestions from a different point of view, to shatter the stereotype. Truth is inferred in many ways, differently by different people. It is the reader's vision and his

personal interpretation that will make a difference and not the run of the mill muse, to debunk divinity or reprimand religions to make way to step into a religionless world, which is as difficult as to step out from a world with religions. So, it's never too late to bring a change for the betterment of the people. There is no path in the sky we look in vain. Prudence is in taking a chance right now, as we don't know the outcome so nothing worse will happen or go wrong. Errors need support no support is needed to uphold truth.

PROS

People are disillusioned by religions. Holy books are no more the lamp to illuminate the human mind. The iPad now shines in the light of the saved and stored information displayed on the touch screen by a tender tap. Religions are too old fashioned in substance and spirit, and still continue to romance with the saga of medieval age. Not a single religion wants to change or be in sync with the existing digital age. As a result, religious reforms are likely to be resisted by a small number of blind followers, and at the same time, appreciated by a large number of educated people world over, as a right step taken in the right direction.

Universe is based on what our senses perceive and mind understands, and not 'as it is', in its inconceivable cosmic elements. Our eyes need light waves to see, ears need sound waves to hear, and nose needs gaseous matter to smell, tongue needs solid or liquid matter to taste. Our senses act as 'Five Inputs' and brain is the factory of thoughts. Senses and brain produce a combination called 'Mind', which needs the support of consciousness to observe. In this way we come to know that universe is made of matter and energy, which is a partial truth, as there is something more than we can know, about the multi-layered, subtle-dimensional cosmic immensity which the human mind can never perceive. Besides, human consciousness is transcendental, cosmic eternity and nothingness is not. So people refuse to believe the version of universe as described by religions in their holy books, anymore.

Science and technology, the driving engines of modern civilization, have transformed everyday life of the people, making

them adaptable to rapid 'Changes' happening so quickly in a fast changing age of technology. Ironically, even the most stubborn and unyielding fanatics are so flexible and adjust them so well, to keep pace with the fast changing technology. Then, why do these fanatics follow their medieval age religious beliefs rigidly? This behavioral change signals that it's time to free the world from outdated religions, to fulfill the demand of people in-waiting. Old religious systems, rituals, beliefs and superstitions are failing, like never before, followed by the flexibility of fast shifting tech-age, set to free the world from rigid religions, struck in time.

A 'Religionless World' is not an unrealistic idea, but an impending sensible happening that is likely to occur in reality, because the number of 'Non-religious People' in the world is rising rapidly, and the number of 'Religious People' are declining drastically in countries like America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, even as a large number of Asian countries are still reeling under the repression of religions and Gods, they fail to see that societies with 'No Religion' are in a healthy state of 'Social Harmony'. We hope the dark clouds of religions will disappear soon from all Asian countries by the radiance of spirituality. That time has finally come. Let us dare to act fast, before we too lose the moon while counting stars.

People in communist countries Russia and China do not follow religions. They are 'Religionless'. Communism like religions was forcefully thrust upon people at a great loss of human life. The consequences were not less than a brutal Holy war. Communist Russia comprised of Russians who wanted to live in peace, yet Communists in Russia were responsible for the murder of almost 20 million Russians. China's huge population was also peaceful, still the Chinese Communists administered State killing of a staggering 70 million Chinese. Political ideas can kill so many innocent people is inexplicable. Flowers of love bloom when the seeds of compassion are sown. Not by forcing an ideology on people with bullets and bombs. After all, barbarism and cruelty grows from the barrel of a gun.

Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism are split into innumerable sects. Each breakaway sect follows its own sectarian

doctrines, which means none of the major world religion has a single or a stable set of a 'self-sustaining' arrangement of facts. So, exposing the harsh reality that no religion has an exclusive right of 'Holy Truth' revealed by the divine forces suggests that spiritual wisdom alone can be fruitful to form the future faith of the 21st century. Open the window and see. Has spring come? The trees are blooming with flowers of spirituality.

There are a number of factors that imply that the involvement of people with religion is waning fast. A large number of people in the world identify themselves, with the religion in which they are born, as a 'Mark' of their cultural identity, and not as believers or faith followers, indicating that a huge segment of people in the world do not believe in religion, but display religion outwardly, as an insignia of their inheritance. Religion's worth had its wonder in medieval age, like a tree that bears fruits in season's splendor.

Practical people question the veracity of religions and look for reasons and justifications to discard false religious beliefs with the truth of spiritual values, as only spiritual wisdom can negate the erroneous impact of religions on humanity, and in the formation of flawed societies, and superfluous creation of nations. People look for sensible spiritual options to select and transform the make-believe, man-made religions and nations, to uphold the spirit of 'Oneness', leading to brotherhood, to make the world war-less and pleasantly peaceful.

Religion creates the fear of God and the shame of guilt. This is a clever ploy to trap innocent and trusting people in a vicious circle, forcing them to accept the religious authority and its doctrines, as a single solution for their salvation. The priest, mullah and the pundit keep faith followers preoccupied with the idea of God. Faith followers foolishly waste their whole life, troubled and engaged in an imaginary struggle to 'Save their Souls'. There is nothing wrong with the world. The way religions see the world makes the world wrong.

Sectarianism, fanaticism and bigotry has flooded the world with the rivers of human blood, destroyed civilizations and ransacked the progressive development of the world. Had it not been for such horrible acts, human societies would have been

far more advanced than what they are today. It is a shame and an insult that the intellectuals, the lawmakers and the leaders of the world have failed to prevent heinous crimes from happening so frequently, in the name of religions, and letting them go unpunished. Are we living in a civilized world? One wonders.

By revolutionizing technology in the field of mass communication, the multi-culture, multi-lingual and multi-religion world is coming closer as never before. So, the timing of the plan and its campaigning on the internet is a right step in the right direction. People world over are waiting to break ties with redundant religions, so as to transcend the limitations of religions, by expanding the canvas of human perception of a world without religions. Speed to accomplish this feat is geared by the support of the people then even a tricky plan can turn out well.

Currently we are experiencing an exponential growth, not in absolute terms but in relative terms, to the rapidly changing scenario engineered by science and technology. Changes in technology and its impact on culture and religions are happening too fast to pause and ponder. In a changing world, past is meaningless, so the amazing moment we all seek is right now, a time when people are facing the challenges of transition, yet they are managing to shift and switch over to new methodologies with ease and élan. This sense of adaptability gives hope to smooth changeover. Technology shapes a solitary society, yet people are led by reason, and not by outdated religions.

Even commoners can vividly view the vulnerability of religions, when rigid religious leaders mock and manipulate the 'Essentials', relying on evidence and estimations of false religious beliefs. It is a flawed intelligence that, which proclaims asymmetrical analysis of myths, and miracles as gospel truth. Why do bad people use religions and holy institutions to cover up their badness? People's non-affiliation to religion is growing, even as fanaticism is rising, using extreme forms of religious doctrines, as a reaction to cultural, economic and political changes, sweeping the world, trying to hide the declining interest of people in religions.

Religions lack creative and critical thinking and impose censorship on any dissent expressed in the form of speech, litera-

ture or art. Religious leaders are the biggest abusers of power, authority, and of the faith followers who trust them. Besides, religious fundamentalists hunt, harass and hound sensible people, who try to revise religions, as blasphemers with blasphemy, and use holy writ as a whip to whack them. A religion obliterates intelligence and exploits helplessness and force religious beliefs to enslave people, and proclaim fanatics as the unquestionable and indisputable masters. People want to free themselves from this nonsense. They are waiting for an opening which is free, factual and flexible to transform outdated religious life into a beneficial spiritual life.

No one converts to Hindu religion because Hinduism is not a religion like other religions. Hinduism is a philosophy, and a way of life. Mostly illiterate Hindus living in poverty, convert to other religions under fear, force and favor or due to the pain and shame of caste system. Hindus have an inbuilt sense to tolerate others religious beliefs and accept the world as 'One Family'. In Hinduism there is no holy book, no religious authority, or an organization that accepts, rejects, opposes or prosecutes anyone on behalf of Hindu religion. If this ancient Vedic philosophy as a so-called religion could survive for many millenniums, then the philosophy to build a 'Religionless World' appears viable too, as it offers individual-centric values, based on reason, to lead a natural spiritual life.

Religions cleverly mask society and culture to hide its real character. As a result, religious affiliation even in theocratic societies is shrinking sharply, showing people's disinclination towards their religion of birth and their eagerness to know or to join other religions, while a large number of people choose not to follow any religion at all. More and more people are rudderless and are moving from on religion to another or to atheism, and are lost in confusion, created by religions; all religions are losing and not gaining members. People feel vulnerable and they do not know which way to go. They have no road-map to follow and no alternative path to tread.

Religions twist truth and spin lies. The perversion of reality in religions has reached a snapping point, with no backup to work on. People are struggling to come out from false religious

convictions, where they helplessly find themselves entrenched from birth. More often than not, when there is no hope, people become indecisive and disillusioned. The aim of this book is to circulate the message to 'Change' so that change can manifest and materialize. In an age of transparency, falsehood and errors can't exist for long. People see 'Religious Reforms' as a prospect to get better, let it be a slow transition, after all, from small beginning comes a great opening.

Old religious structures are crumbling, and human minds conditioned by rigid religions fetch feebly to fit-free, fretting far from, fussing faltering religions. All over the world, spiritual awakening is taking place to invalidate religions. Young and the educated are ready to chart out a change on the playing field of religions. They are prepared to accept short-term pain for a long-term gain, and face the world as it is, and not as religions perceive the world. Time is ripe to promote religious reforms, and elevate people and society to a new level of thinking. Humans are intrinsically chained to change, this gives hope and optimism to transform and grow naturally.

Curiosity of people in spiritual matters is increasing enormously in terms of large numbers. Efforts to take science and spirituality to a point from where a 'Global Humanitarian Society' can materialize is poised to become a reality, ready to manifest in its full glory, and set to herald everlasting peace and harmony, camaraderie and compassion, caring and sharing, happiness and harmony among the people of the whole world, not by reactive but by proactive cooperation and collaboration. When the apple is ripe it falls by itself with no efforts. Likewise spiritual values will receive a big boost in the time to come. Shouldn't we wake up people who pretend to sleep?

Human thoughts transcend religions, race, nationality, geographical location and time, which thought will take what shape is hard to know, as thoughts fuse freely. From where thoughts come we do not know. In India, China and Greece some philosophers were born around the same time, with a striking similarity in their line of thought. Today, we are witnessing exactly the same transition, the creation of comparable thoughts coming from various directions. So, a drastic change in the religious

outlook of the world is imminent. The way of 'Cosmic Will' is mysterious, it makes no difference 'When', 'Why', 'Where' or 'Who' starts the process to change the religious mindset of people that goes, beyond the thoughts of philosophers, to last longer than, a man's life can save.

The revival of spiritual values augurs a glorious future for mankind. The spadework has begun. Religions cannot survive in future the same way religions existed in the past or exists today. A complete new understanding is emerging. Universal spiritual values are unifying and with the evolving global philosophy, the exit of religions from the world stage is inevitable. Religions that toiled and taught are in tatters now. Religion's glorious days are over, supper is done and curtains dropped. In the darkness of night, it is time to abandon redundant religions. Sleep no more and wake up in the radiant sunrise of a new promise, where noble ideas float freely in ether, neither aired nor heard before, and the role 'Etheric' plays in the phenomenal world is still uncharted and unexplored.

Religionists seek the external world, while spiritual seekers dive deep in their inner dell, dwelling to delve, to seek answers to questions on life. In the technological age, we have the 'Manual of Instructions' to operate mechanical devices, but human beings have no manual to manage their life. People want a manual of instructions on 'Life and Living'. That's why, self-study is the right approach, and all that religions advise in holy books is ignorance. Human life is a preparation to enter the higher dimensions of existence. It is hard to believe in death that everything gained in life is lost, and only 'Self-Knowledge' goes with the soul of the person, on his journey after death, and therefore, the 'State of Consciousness' during the last breath of life decides the form of life that the soul will take birth after death.

It is wrong to assume religions have common features. Actually there is hardly any similarity. All religions are poles apart, incomparable and incompatible to each other. There are few commonalities that do exist, but are not acceptable to the fundamentalists. So, devising a 'Universal World Religion' based on the familiar features of religions is a far-fetched dream. In fact, the utility of each religion by now is over. Religions are no more

relevant. Subsequently, seeing sharp dissimilarities and cascading conflicts among religions, the assimilation of astuteness can be accomplished only through non-religious methods and means that which is essentially spiritual in nature.

In the past, Buddhism was the 'State Religion' of India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, China and Japan. Now Buddhism has vanished from all these countries, except Japan, which is still a Buddhist country. If people in these countries could change their religion with the passage of time, so there is hope that the world can become religionless too. Provided the message of this proposal is spread globally to create public awareness, only then, people world over will take an objective and impartial view on this issue. With time, things fall in place, even if it takes a jolt to wake up people to the spiritual realities of the world.

Each religion looks different from different perspectives. What lies behind religions 'Reverence' and 'Barbarism' is a matter of 'Senselessness' and 'Shame'. World has witnessed the role of religions, and the changing interpretations of religious beliefs of all major religions in the world. Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism have accepted views of others, on respective religions with an open mind. But, there is certain defiance by Islamic scholars to concur with the views of others on Islam, because a section of Muslims are intolerant and react violently. If religions consider criticisms as a threat, then there is no hope left, for the scope for any improvement.

Time has moved from medieval age to modern age and currently to 'Digital Age'. Time is now heading towards 'Space Age', and the time-frame from 'Religions' is shifting to a 'No Religion' time-frame rapidly. Amazingly, there is something new beyond which humanity can always find something still better. World has all we need, so author's mission is to mobilize and make full use of common good for all, relatable to time and its ramifications. When we start something new and different, it appears irrelevant. Nothing is relevant, as long we perceive it, as a separate component. The moment all the fragments are fused together into a synthesized whole, a 'New Entity' congenial and acceptable emerges. To tell this simple fact, do we really need to bang

the gong from a hilltop?

When the world is continuously changing, why shouldn't religions change too? Just look at the human body, it is constantly changing and will continue to change till its death. There is nothing anyone can do to stop it, except agree and adapt to the ongoing involuntary bodily changes that are happening continuously. Similarly, human race changes and moves forward with time too, with new ideas and with new details. Since new ideas are constantly challenged, they need to be refined accordingly. New ideas about religions will not stop from evolving; even the common notion of spiritual values will change with the passage of time. So we need to negotiate and navigate, what lies ahead, and not brood over past bygone ideas buried in the tattered pages of dead history books.

While spirituality is the most appropriate alternative to religion, it is not the highest aspiration or the ultimate goal. Spirituality is simply better than religion, and is not the end of human quest. Spirituality cannot be the final hope of liberation a human being longs to attain. Spirituality is possibly better in comparison to religions that precede it, but not something ultimate that can succeed it. Spirituality is a beginning of the journey on the road to 'One World One Religion' fostering humanity, as one family and the whole world as a global village. Religions have failed to accomplish this noble mission miserably in their long tenure on earth.

The record of religion is embellishment and exaggeration. The world has entered the 'Golden Age' of spiritual awakening. The wheel of the world is about to turn full circle by the power of enlightened people, to restore the principles of righteousness through spiritual standards. History is etched by few paper heroes, but is actually shaped by countless unsung nameless heroes. Religionless world is spiritually inclusive, it negates religious beliefs, God and Holy Books, but accepts 'Cosmic Consciousness' as God, Allah and Ishwar, watchfully by spiritual means, sacred values, and divine wisdom, like a well bred calf follow a milking cow.

Retaining a rabid, rigid, radical, redundant and repetitive mental attitude, in an ever changing and evolving life of the

people, and in the constantly changing world too, is quite frustrating. People feel they are being restricted and restrained, which is against the freedom of human spirit. Religionless world is a 'Back to Basics' shift. The test of sorts in this area is proven, and requires no further verification of its veracity. The world built on the foundation of spiritual values will not crack but last long and strengthen the spiritual evolution of mankind. Let's march with the beat of the drummer. Humanity will exit from old religions soon, to enter into a new world of spirituality.

The idea of a religionless world is significant, not as a visage of vision, but as an event that can actually happen. No one knows how much time it will take. It is difficult to draw a timeline. The things that changed the world in the past had started from a single idea. Today, we can just visualize the religionless world. It may take years before it becomes a reality. But, the joy of seeing the old religious world disappear by a new spiritual awakening, in the time to come is reassuring, indeed. Worlds may come and worlds may go, change will continue till eternity. Fools will resist change and wise will welcome it, so take the tooth out than have it aching.

For the common good and welfare of all, for the survival and evolution of humanity, for universal aspirations of peace, security, freedom and the rule of law, world leaders through a common consensus should decide the formation of 'One World Government' and promote 'One World Religion'. This new world order will be established by consent and not by conquest or coercion. The process can be initially initiated by the consortium of democratic countries and by the participation of world leaders who would allow things to fall in place. Currently we are living in a time of a civilization crisis. Can this movement define future of mankind and the new world order? When truth makes enemy the lies friends, then don't expect nothing at the end, accept something good will happen.

Religions need a new thinking to uplift people from religious dependence to personal independence. Religious rigidity has hurt humanity badly. Religions have created a make-believe world without realizing that truth goes beyond what our finite senses can measure or perceive. Therefore, it's our duty to build

an understanding of the world on facts, and not on fiction, by taking a dip in the river of cosmic consciousness, experiencing the birth of a new born humanity, free from religious contamination, as a single set of human beings. When collectively we ask, then together we seek, and knock the door as one, the door opens, for us to find and rejoice the glad tidings.

The value of a 'Religionless World' is not reduced when people fail to see its worth. If educated people believe in it, then religionless world can become a reality sooner, if not later, even if fanatics forbid. Be it known, people who don't want to change, let them not change, but people who want to change, will change with time. Human beings consider 'Spiritual Values' are an inseparable part of their essence, personality and temperament, somewhat one, and every one hopes to attract 'That', what the soul knows is, its universal destiny. We all are governed by same spiritual laws, like stars shine at night and Sun glows during the day, working on the natural laws of light.

CONS

A 'Social Change' mass movement for 'Religious Reforms' is intentional and is not a spontaneous happening. Such movements are launched by planning to create comprehensive public awareness, choreographed by a campaign, inspired by the co-operation and the collaboration of people, which takes us beyond the divides of race, gender, color, caste, creed, culture, country and language. Social change movement is driven by collective human 'Energy', 'Intelligence', 'Courage' and 'Money'. If any one of these ingredients is lacking, the whole movement is likely to fail.

This proposal is driven by an ordinary person single-handedly. He is a 'Nobody' in terms of social reckoning. Nor can he prove his credentials in social work, except that he holds a track record that testifies he served a Bank to make a living, and not in learning social behavior. Now, he leads a retired life on pension. His credibility in the field of theology is untested, being a late starter; he lacks an organizational base, a support team, and the financial clout, considered as essential ingredients, to launch a movement, from conception to conclusion. It seems he

has started an armchair discussion, and is trying to catch a fish from a glass of whiskey; he enjoys sipping in evening, assuming drunks tell the truth.

People are clueless about the author's identity, he is a retiree, who spends his time at home, just to muse and mute, so beware of a wise looking vice man, do not follow his truth that resemble lies. Look the ways and means he employs, judge his motive, observe his personal life, he cannot conceal himself for long. By airing free spirited non-conformist views, it doesn't mean he is the 'Chosen-One' or the 'Messiah' to usher a momentous change. He is simply challenging religious dogmas, with no tutelage and indoctrination by any Guru. If he is propagating his own spiritual knowledge then he is within his right to propose religious reforms. Does it really matter what he masquerades, like an eyeless ant asking for eyelashes. Is content or his credentials more important? Can we trust people we don't know? Do we trust people we know? A doubting mind often cheats realty.

Proposal is philosophical, impractical and irreligious; it incites people to leave their world of religion and to enter in the world of spirituality. Proposal does not deny the existence of 'God' but asserts no argument can establish God's reality, and perceives God as a metaphor for 'Cosmic Consciousness'. On the lessons of life the author rests the whole responsibility on the shoulders of spiritual seekers, telling them to pave their own path to tread, and follow none other pathways. In this way, he thinks everyone can become a Buddha. When the art of knowing 'Thyself' is well pronounced then initiating the creation of a 'Religionless World' is unfounded. It's a silly plan that can hardly succeed, as it is driven by a single profane person. Can one sesame seed make a spoonful of oil?

Moreover, the author's contention that there is no teacher, the seeker has to learn him-self, defies the established principles of learning. His long explanations sound as big lies. His tipsy thoughts are like spirituous liquors that rock like rum, whiff like whisky, bubble like beer, and water like wine. Big results do not require big plans; a small leak can sink a big ship. The path we seek is not in the sky, people gaze at to find, the path is made by men, who rightly see what to heed, where to head and when

to halt on their pathway.

Pitching the proposal is similar to the 'myth of a mad mystic', who as a young man wanted to change the whole world. When he reached his middle age, he saw not a single person had changed. Then he thought 'Let me change my family'. Going gray and old, he realized his family too has failed to change. So he thought now 'I will change' but seeing death approaching fast, and life slipping out, he realized it was too late for him to change now. Soon he passed away, without changing himself or his family or anyone in the world. Change, if not well planned and well timed, does not work, as spiral of change fails to find stability in the stillness of its core, essential to trigger change, or else, it falls like a tree, the way it leans, and not in opposite direction.

Social reform movements often succeed by a sensible manifesto, a great leadership, and the knack to generate public opinion to support the project. When these three elements work together in unison, they create a 'wave' that can sweep out the old and reinstate the new. The author can write a manifesto not without mistakes, and lacks the quality of a good leadership, oratorical skills, and the fine ability to create public opinion in favor of his proposal. He can push the proposal but not lead it to its logical conclusion. So, this proposal will not take-off in isolation, by the effort of a single person alone, and not with public support.

Authors of Holy books knew that the religions they were promoting would not last long. So, they invented a God who promises to protect the believers and makes announcement to deliver justice on the judgment day, by rewarding or punishing people for their good and bad deeds, without disclosing a time-frame intentionally, leaving believers in limbo, who wait indefinitely, for an unbelievable event to happen, but nobody knows when or where. Religions have succeeded in this plan. They have outlived the prophecies of their own early demise by creating long-lasting, never-ending delusions. Therefore, it's difficult to disengage people from all this, and/or several other similar ridiculous religious beliefs, which even a 'New Broom' cannot sweep clean.

The deep impact of religion on the minds of the faith followers is baffling, indeed. This is even after 800 years of Islamic rule in India that witnessed the slaughtering of eight hundred million Hindus is the most bloodiest and brutal, horrifying story of mass murder and mayhem in world history. In spite of heinous crimes against Hindus, Muslim invaders failed to wipe out Hinduism from India. Islam is still a minority religion in India, even if, we take the number of Muslims jointly in Pakistan and Bangladesh into account. The Mughal ruler Akbar had syncretized a new religion 'Din-e-Ilahi' and failed, even the lineage of the ten Gurus who created 'Sikhism' by imbibing the virtues of both faiths, could not spread pan India, except in Punjab. History testifies the reversal of religion is difficult, even if people are put under life threatening conditions. People don't change their religions easily. It is as hard as squeezing water from a rock.

Spirituality termed as 'Satyadharma' is the art of 'Self Exploration', which is a subtle and profound philosophical concept not easily grasped. Nor is there a way to reduce it to a 'manual' in writing, or into a syllabus of study, nor is it based on commentaries of various commentators or on the individual experiences of others. Spirituality is just an undemonstrative personal experience that differs from one person to another person. There is no similarity or any commonality between spiritual experiences. Each person knows it, by the knack of knowing it himself, at the personal / individual level. If the 'Common Man' fails to comprehend this tedious and tiresome path, then the whole application advanced by the author is useless, and will end up exactly from where it had started.

Holy books distort reality and create a world of fantasy, superstition, rituals and delusions. Those who oppose are sinners. Interestingly, founders of all major religions, Buddha, Christ and Muhammad, had all opposed the existing religions of their times, and had launched proactive campaigns to introduce 'Religious Reforms'. Whether they succeeded or not is difficult to conclude, but the world has certainly not changed. It revolves around the same formatted and organized religions. Author may make the same mistake, and end up creating noise and nuisance, without impacting any worthwhile basic change, es-

sentially in the elemental essence of religions.

Eternal spiritual truths are woven in human nature. There is no censorship to control the choice of conscience. Deep within, faith followers and fundamentalists know humanity is 'One', a fact they shrewdly bury under the burden of false religious beliefs. Outwardly they express disapproval of their inner feelings, and strongly oppose the idea of religious reforms as an act of sacrilege; in a situation they know other people are watching them. The fear of being censored by others prevents them to agree what their benefactors honestly hold good for them, to fine-tune their religion, to be in sync with time, like a turbulent sea makes a skilled sailor.

Religious reforms are difficult to popularize, extremely cumbersome to introduce. That reason and righteousness will eventually govern humanity is silly idealism. Human beings are not rational beings. They are born irrational, and live in a world of irrationality. Rationality is not a natural trait of human beings. Reason is a tool to tame the irrational mind. In the same way, the author is trying to change the religious mindset of people, to a spiritual state of mind. Religions are fictitious, fabricated, fiction, and fantasy, therefore creating a religionless world on reason and righteousness alone is a tall order, indeed. If an element of fiction is added to attract the gullible, then the proposal will become as foolish as religions are now.

Religious people are vulnerable to fascination and fixations. They live in a make-believe world and try to discover something that is not here on earth or up there in the sky. They fail to set apart facts from fiction, and spend their whole life in vain; keeping the wonder of religions alive, a marvel that mesmerizes the gullible, who live helplessly to validate religious fantasies in their real life. They struggle to cope with the unreal and fail, suffering anxiety and hallucinations. Religions have brain-washed almost eighty percent of the human population. Can a new idea make a dent on it? One wonders.

Promoting the idea of prayers, miracles and destiny, religions have formed, fashioned the false illusion of fake security, producing a class of people who do not make efforts to improve their lot, but inflict a heavy blow on the expression of rational

thoughts. Believers waste their life with futile prayers and wait for miracles to happen, and destiny to unfold, a grand future for them, all in vain. Earlier, natural disasters were interpreted as the wrath of God. Now religions justify terrorism, ethnic cleansing, genocides, hatred and war between religions, as anger of God on humanity. The terror of religions has created divisions among people of the world and damaged world peace. So, promoting the message of 'Oneness' and 'Social Harmony' in a hostile scenario is a difficult task.

Globally, the people of the world inherit religion from birth. In the list of religions 'Christianity' is at the top position, Islam on second position, people with no religious affiliation are on third position. Christianity is the most evenly spread religion and Hinduism the least. On fourth position is the 'No Religion' group consisting of atheists, agnostics, and spiritual people. Christianity and Islam as organized religions are poised to spread further. Hinduism and Buddhism as a philosophy can capture the imagination of more people. With such strong statistics, it is difficult to dismantle the whole super-structure of religions from the world. So a 'Religionless World' is far-fetched, and is likely to be misunderstood as a crazy idea, invented by a crazy man.

Sin and redemption had build the foundation of religions to exploit the biological 'Fear & Reward' syndrome we all as human beings are born with, thus enticing people to follow false beliefs, invented for the survival of religions. So, any attempt to change the religious mindset of the people can create a conflict among faith followers of different religions, causing social disorder, rage and carnage. Fundamentalism is actually a violent response to suppress religious reforms. It is an orthodox restatement of religion, made by some enigmatic religious leaders, who hold faith followers enthralled by their charisma and oratory, and who tell lies to run round the world wildly, through digital devices, as truth puts on the shoes to run aimlessly.

Religions promote distortion, deception and delusion to keep faith followers hooked to foolish beliefs, without knowing its dire consequences. Upholding false ideas over a long period of time becomes a part of human personality, so people cannot disassociate themselves from it, and imperceptibly admire their

old habitual errors, and fail to see the truth of life. If religions can satisfy the emotional needs of faith followers, then it is difficult to determine whether people can discard religions without causing an emotional turmoil. Religions may be worse but is a world without religions better? We cannot figure out the exact impact of the departure of religions, as the exit of all religions from the world has never happened in human history so far.

The idea of a religionless world can shock the religionists, the fanatics and the zealots. The real intention of the author is merely to make them think, as they have stopped thinking beyond their own religions, from many millenniums before. Once they start thinking, they would know what is false and true in their Holy books, and appreciate that contradictions are complimentary, as a common concurrence, only then they would value and understand the reality that there is no deceitful plan behind the inevitable law of constant changes, failing which, even Gods are helpless to save humanity, against its ignorance and stupidity.

The 'God Gene' is hardwired in human DNA. Religions are man-made and the Gods are created by the authors of Holy books. Gods of religions do not exist. God as a metaphor for cosmic consciousnesses is used by the author to explain the 'Cosmic Constant' symbolically. Relinquishing religion is a different matter than giving up the idea of God. Fear psychosis explains people's faith in God, Allah and Ishwar, as it serves as a psychological balm to assuage their suffering and strengthen their resolve to face the uncertainties of life and death with hope. So, God's importance cannot be undermined. People follow God like calf follows a cow, and dissolve in its elixir like coffee changes the color of water. The question is not about choosing a better option, but in understanding the concept of God, Allah and Ishwar in a better way, as we all know that thinking is transcendental.

A public discourse to develop a dependable demand for rational religious reforms is the need of the day and therefore is necessary too. The proposal negates religions without a credible study to substantiate its claims. Nor has the author of the proposal collected any data to enhance a new understanding

he proposes to pursue. Nor has he devised any future-oriented, long-term applications to initiate sustainable improvement in the field of spirituality. The proposal lacks the expertise required to get the desired results. Nor does it guarantee fool-proof solutions, so it is difficult to forecast a predetermined outcome of a religionless world.

The trouble with the proposal is how it proposes to promote spiritual values through religious reforms. It lacks the 'Ideological Filler' that can convert the idea into a coherent and sustainable plan. The proposal is vague on how to translate an inspiring idea into reality. The world needs solutions rather making religions a scapegoat. An analytic mind can easily slip into the game of manipulation and lose its spiritual perceptive and come under the spell of idolizing the human 'Self' as God in its internal spiritual search, by means of personally prepared realities to justify 'Self' as 'Self-hood', a cover that may allude the reason for reforms. Besides, problems created by religions are difficult to solve in terrifying environment and hostile responses by fundamentalists.

Despite the bogey of secularism, religions, holy books, religious beliefs, spirituality or atheism, it is 'Culture' and 'Traditions' that continue to exert a powerful influence on people globally. Prophesies that religions will fail, fall and flee has not come true so far. Religions still shape the thinking and lifestyle of people. Even those who have read Holy books hardly know anything about it, and those who know, hardly agree what it means to them. People may continue to follow religions blindly, without verification, but their obsession with God will persist to prolong further. So, it's likely in future all religions will disappear, but not the idea of God, Allah or Ishwar.

Lost in the war of words, on the shortcomings of the proposal, the proposed structure and order of a 'Religionless World' is often undermined and seen as inadequate, unsuitable to cope with the challenges to change, the perception, attitude, values and beliefs. Sadly, we see small pieces of a puzzle and not the whole big picture. If we are caught up with the pieces, we can never solve the riddle. A unifying approach that connects the pieces into a full picture is needed, like epigrams succeed where

epics fail. The purpose of the proposal is to help people to see facts and think about the worth of spiritual values over religions, and consider spirituality in one piece. The river is crossed when we move on from one side of the shore to another side of the shore.

HOW TO FORM A WORLDVIEW

First, we need to reach an understanding that we all are 'One' and 'One Is All'. Before this happens, we must learn not to see ourselves as separate human beings from the rest of the world. The idea that the world is a 'Split-Level' entity is the result of 'Mental-Gymnastics' and is not based on the laws of nature. The world we see is an idea created by the human mind, as a grand 'Mental-Drama'. Let us now un-stage it, with the same mind which creates it, and pull down the curtain on the theater of 'Mental-Creation', and enter the world of reality, and enact the real act of life. A bad error is to have error and not amend it knowingly.

People want a world without religions that creates conflicts, Holy Books that look like story books, and Gods who resemble comic superheroes. Different religions give expression to different Gods, and with several Holy Books, the essence of 'Oneness' is lost. Truth is seen from various angles and articulated in diverse ways to create confusion. People must choose a path that suits them best, and merge the 'Individual spirit' with 'Cosmic spirit', which is the culmination of spiritual wisdom. World accepts that there are many truths, seen by as many people. Even if, it takes two to speak truth, the reality of world is but 'One'.

Being too methodical and too detail-oriented is to limit our vision from opening up fully to see the whole picture. Emotions too are illogical. When emotions are strong, reason visibly becomes feeble and starts working through the senses. If one feels right, he acts in accordance of what he feels is right. His decision may not be logical, nor his judgment reasonable. Deep within he know that the information senses and mind gathers is funneled and filtered through his conscience. He cannot deny or undermine the deep influence of thoughts that create dynamic plurality figuratively. Therefore, dealing with emotions

is equally important, as is the judicious use of reason desirable, to experience the intuitive nuances of 'One World' and 'One Human Race'.

Separating from the old world order, to step into a new world order, the fear of not knowing, how to respond to new challenges is formidable, indeed. Such situations often help to rejuvenate our perceptions, attitudes, values, and beliefs to change fundamentally. The way to change is to learn and learning is a life-long process. So, it is important to have an open mind and be ready to learn without hesitation. A learner is not a scholar. Learning is a method to acquire knowledge and to develop right understanding, one has to go beyond normal confines of a rational benchmark, in order to extend, expand and explore spiritual dimensions and its well meaning scope, where the sense of pure 'Being' becomes subtle and deep, and longing to discover the countless multi-dimensional cosmic domains a reality.

Sometimes it is wrong to tell the truth, when truth tastes more bitter than poison. Religions cannot justify their bloodiest roles in human history. Consequently, how much is the worth of religions now? Why is the world allowing religions to dictate the way people must live and behave? Life is not just the command and control of religious beliefs which is increasingly becoming a challenge to world peace, and that's what the world is concerned about. We have to shift from a religion based society to a spiritual based society, and that is what we need to debate right now, before any other rudderless ideas translate into reality.

Whether we like it or whether we don't like it, subtle changes are silently taking place in the domain of religions. The wind of 'Change' is blowing across the world to uproot the old. Will this wave sweep away the age old regimes of religions and fulfill the long sought human aspirations for spiritual growth and development of humanity to become conscious 'Oneness'? Allow the winds of change to give wings to the world to glide into a new age, full of new possibilities, and keep religions out of sight, out of mind, so that humanity awakes in the freedom of collective consciousness, the source of life, laughter and love.

The whole world is manifestation of 'Consciousness' as one

'life-force', which passes in time, by acquiring special shapes of species in different physical forms. In the heart of all species resides one fundamental unifying longing to survive and be happy. When every form of life is seen as 'One' the idea of people, races and nationalities is bound to collapse and the union with the supreme life-force in its various forms is realized in full. The outcome of this unification leads to 'Unconditional Love' and 'Selfless Service' to all living beings. After all, we are born, not to hate a person because of the color of his skin, religion, nationality and culture. Life is all about living together in peace and harmony as one human race.

CONCLUSION

Beware of the author, he is deficient in displaying the trademark of holiness, as is loudly adorned by all self-decorated Swamis, Babas and Gurus, who flaunt their ill-gotten wealth, parade a crowd of devotees, and sing their own praises, as a testimony to prove their holiness. The author is simply an ordinary man, who can at best twist lies as truth to prove his point of view, and being a dull and a drab ex-Banker, he is a fault finder, who can lend an umbrella in sunshine, and take it away in rain. So, readers are cautioned to exercise reasonable care, verify the facts and then judge how much truth and how many lies are backed by the author in his proposal. Are they meant to befool or enlighten people? Or, jolly well a trash talk. Readers may decide, can this proposal make a bona fide difference in the real sense, or else, they are free to discard the proposal as utter nonsense.

Religions hammer and drill false beliefs in the minds of faith followers, while truth is revealed by facts alone. There is no other way to know truth. Correct perception is to see what is here, what is there, and what is elsewhere. Rising tides take away everything on its way, while receding they leave behind many shinning shells on the shore, thus keeping the fear and the fascination of the sea alive. So don't be enamored by impressive views, except the observation that are backed by hard facts and harsh realities. The idea of a 'Continuous Change' and a 'Long lasting Change' for the greater and common good of people, are two different things, on which the proposal wants to draw the

attention of the readers to ponder and decide upon.

Religionless World doesn't fall within the conservative understanding of people. Voice to tone down the issue, comes not from the root of rationality, but from an emotional level of an unreasonable human response. Readers may find both practical and impractical propositions in the plan worth reflection and rejection. Truth is hard to swallow; we can win an argument when we are right. Then it hardly makes a difference, whether we think before we talk or we talk before we think. The author has opened the door; readers can walk through this door, and see what lies there. He has sown the seeds to plant a tree, underneath its shade others may sit, not he, having lived his life, he may soon depart, from the world and disappear in the realm of the dead forever, never to be seen again in flesh, bone and blood, except in the memory of people who may love or hate him.

There are numerous paths in the world, but no preset destination to reach. Destination is an imaginary goalpost, created by human mind, out of fear of boredom, arising out of the barren reality of nothingness and eternity. We may look different outwardly, yet we all are one 'single entity' inwardly, comprising 'One universal Consciousness'. Since 'Spiritual Laws' govern consciousness, discernible by spiritual knowledge. Consequently, all human beings are spiritual beings governed by spiritual laws, wisdom and ethical values, and not by any man-made religion. So, the plan of the proposal is to obey and observe the universal spiritual rules and change the false fabricated 'Religious Mindset' of people, to a normal and a natural 'Spiritual Mindset'.

When we analyze the 'Pros' and 'Cons' nothing worthwhile is concluded by reviewing a one-sided view, as analysis takes a conceptual lead from both sides of views 'For' and 'Against' equally covering congenial and contradictory views, because the analyzing mind often fails to see the 'Truth'. Synthesis of 'Advantages' and 'Disadvantages' by fusing all diverse views, brings out a balanced view, leading to wisdom that is universally acceptable by all. Beyond analysis and rational thinking, we reach a dead-end, knowing not where to go. Here it is wisdom that intervenes to pave the path for us to reach the lofty evolution-

ary objectives we vouch and value very much.

Human beings are spiritual beings with a spirit surging to serve humanity, from the lowest to the highest level. Consciousness alone can connect with consciousness effortlessly. The moment mind drops it happens suddenly. Full consciousness then descends upon us, it flows freely through us, unfolding the numerous invisible spatial dimensions, beyond physical and spirit worlds, thus making us abundantly accessible to experience the cosmic reality, to see the unseen, and feel the intangible. There is no reason or logic beyond 'Cosmic Stillness'. All physical and non-physical dimensions have an objective to meet, consciousness alone has none, and it simply expands to increase the scope of cosmic and human awareness. Therefore, spiritual approach and not religion is more congenial and compatible line of thought to establish a new world order.

'Cosmic consciousness' and 'Individual consciousness' is the same, except that cosmic consciousness is an ocean, and individual consciousness is a wave. Consciousness is behind the formation of all creation. 'God' is a symbol to express consciousness. Existence of God as cosmic consciousness is indisputable. Beyond consciousness there is 'Nothing'. It is here that all man-made knowledge comes to an end. It is here that all destinations end. It is here that the multi-dimensional view of 'Eternity' starts, difficult to grasp, but learnt by reflection and personal experience, being aware of human limitations and ignorance, rest all is hype and hypocrisy, and a touch of madness. Hence, we see foolishness is more pronounced than wisdom. Consciousness is not the creator, it is the source from where everything emerges like waves from ocean, and we too are a part of this everlasting ethereal energy.

In a digital age, it is imperative for the human race to go beyond all false religious beliefs and explore the righteous way 'Spirituality' or 'Satyadharma', the epitome of universal spiritual values that empowers introspection and intuition, connects and controls individual evolution with cosmic evolution, leading to cosmic revelation, cosmic intelligence, cosmic wisdom or in other words, a declaration that there is 'No God but God', and there is everybody but nobody like 'You'. So, script your story, your vi-

sion and live your life, even if the story of life appears universal, still it is not your story, it is not your mind, just think for yourself. Soon, we all would be memory for few people. So follow cosmic guidance and put cosmic wisdom to work, life is a lesson to evolve and change. In the sphere of trans-pan-consciousness, everything that is thinkable is possible. Nothing is ever lost in cosmos, be it thoughts, sound or silence, everything tangible and intangible is transformed, transmitted and not terminated.

People oppose truth because they cannot handle things that are right and real, yet in strange ways all existing circumstances change. Million matchsticks are made from one tree and one matchstick is enough to burn millions of trees. Sometimes we think a thought can take us to a certain level of thinking, but it takes us to another level of thinking by surprise. From the source of thoughts, thoughts flow to us, with no conscious effort. Some thoughts forge link with people and connect with ease to manifest in the world, without a producer or a director, yet it pulls the play off so well in countless diverse ways, enacted by each actor, upholding the thought. No one can ever retrieve or change thoughts that have changed, as no one can relive time when it's gone.

Thoughts have staying power, yet they do not stay forever. So follow the old adage, the secret of change is not to fight the old but to build the new, and then find out what is right for humanity and discard what is wrong for the world, and after that amplify the voice to change, accordingly. Religions have given what it could, let religions go now. If religions have left a scar behind, allow 'Spiritual values' to make its own mark. Men and women must endeavor to follow the principles of truth. Truth mirrors reality and the laws of nature. We all are a part of that substratum, the seat of consciousness of the 'Seer' and the 'Sage'. The wheel of time is turning full circle now. If nothing is up there, then nothing is down here, and what is there is here. Time is ticking away, so awaken, act and sleep no more, as he who sleeps does not wake up, as the same person who had slept.

THE NEW FACE OF RELIGION

CHAPTER 5

Satya Dharma

Creed of creative consciousness
The Global Religion of the 21st Century

Spirituality was never a part of the mainstream documented knowledge. So the interpretation of 'Spirituality' has been varied, vague, vulgarized and even vexing as far as the traditional meaning of spirituality is concerned. Above all, with human spirit or soul and the understanding of the laws of nature as 'Satya', the ultimate truth and the pursuit of eternal principles, are true for all and for all times, known as 'Dharma', one universal faith or religion for one world. That's why the author has coined the term 'Satyadharma' to explain the splendor of 'Spirituality' with sheer simplicity.

Western philosophers often used 'Latin' or 'Greek' words to convey and conclude their line of thought. In the same way, the author being an 'Easterner' is inspired and inclined to use a few Sanskrit words like 'Satyadharma' simply to spell out and shed light on the fundamental spirit of spirituality, in a language that has affinities with Greek and Latin, and is just right for developing software, having specific syntax and good grammar with 54 alphabets, which is twice the number of 26 alphabets the English language has.

WHAT IS SATYA DHARMA?

Satyadharma in Sanskrit means the 'Tenets of Truth'. 'Satya' is truth and 'Dharma' spiritual standard ordained, as an individual's solemn duties to himself, to society and to the nation. In literature, spirituality has many meanings. But the suggested definition of 'Satyadharma' implies to follow: (1) The path of righteousness, (2) The code of spiritual conducts, (3) The laws of nature to lead a natural life and (4) The rule of law and social ethics.

The concept of 'Satyadharma' is based on the time-tested spiritual wisdom and not on any belief system as a religion with

its wrong judgment is. Spirituality is a way of life. There is nothing to teach or to be taught, the lessons of life are learned and experienced 'Individually' at the personal level. Spiritual values are the universal principles that apply to all human beings who are frayed between duality, are torn between higher aspirations and lower indulgences, are tired of foolishness and wisdom, and are tattered by the mind and the senses.

When an 'Individual' delves deep within the dell of his inner self, he hears an inner voice, divulging the goal of his life. Considering 'Conscience' warns and 'Consciousness' reveals, he must decipher and decode the message of his inner voice and crystallize his objective accordingly, to fulfill the purpose of life he is born to accomplish. We take birth on earth with an inherent incomparable intention to evolve, but are born in religion and forced to follow Holy Books and Gods, and thus fail to achieve, the real mission of our life, we are born to accomplish and live for.

Today, the burning issue before the world is 'Religion or Rationality', 'Religious Beliefs or Righteous Behavior'. Frictions arising amid 'Yes' and 'No' fuse to fix the inner accord. Outwardly, all disciplines of knowledge are based on ideological positions rather than on facts. When a concept is conceived, it can stretch to a certain level of logical thinking, and if pushed beyond, it somersaults into a surrealistic surprise. Can the mindset reach a consistent level of thinking? Often the heart knows the truth but trailing the heart is to lose the mind. Therefore, we should experience inner vibrations and inner validation and trust the truth, as our ignorance is dispelled only by truth, and truth alone removes the evils of error and helps us move from alienation to authentication. Follow these principles of truth and the laws of nature, as the universe operates at subtle energy levels and multiple dimensions and not on human thoughts or tapered view of the human eye restricted to three dimensions only.

Buddha was not a Buddhist, Jesus was not a Christian, Muhammad was not a Muslim, and Avatars of Vedic age were not Hindus. In the past, the founders of organized major religions, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam had rebelled against false religions, which thrived in their respective lifetime, and had never

claimed themselves, to be the followers of any religion. On the contrary, they were strong votaries of righteous values and not of any religion. Why 'Followers' blindly do what their 'Founders' didn't do? Why followers don't seek what their 'Founders' had sought? Likewise today too we should not object or oppose similar views raised by others against present-day religions as 'Blasphemous' a cause for which the 'Founders' of all religions stood for, and fought fearlessly against outdated false beliefs. To know religions refer the 'Holy Books' and 'Frame of Time' in which they were written.

When the author sought Ishwar, he discovered God. When he sought God, he discovered Allah. When he sought Allah, he discovered consciousness, eternity and nothingness. God, Allah, and Ishwar are not dead but religions are. So, the author likes Christ not Christians, he likes Mohammed not Muslims, he likes Krishna not Hindus, he likes Buddha not Buddhists. He dislikes the Church and the Priest, he dislikes the Mosque and the Mullah, he dislikes the Temple and the Pundit, he dislikes the Monastery and the Monk, but reveres 'Cosmic Consciousness' as the metaphor of God, Allah, and Ishwar. He considers human race as one family, the world as one global village, and wants to bring back this 'Oneness' which was lost in crusades, Jihads, and holy wars.

Even a dupe can discern that medieval age Holy books mismatch the mindset of a modern man. Sadly, even in digital age, there are fanatics who still cannot digest criticism or suggestions to improve and update the Holy books, and deem it as an 'Act of Blasphemy'. Even today, in the midst of hue and cry, religions resist change and insist status-quo, which is baffling indeed. If sheep's don't shrink in rain, they are washed away by flood into the sinkholes. Using an umbrella in rain is good, failing which a person is drenched by rainwater by his own foolishness. 'Caretakers of Religions' are doing the same stupidity. Are outdated medieval age religions waiting to sink than be in sync with modern age? Is the liberty of spiritual freedom better than slavish mentality to rigid religions?

Since millenniums the world has been reeling under the influence of redundant religions, unchanged and unaltered till now,

making the future of religions bleak, in a free and flexible age of science and technology. Religions are crumbling, giving way to new structures. If people of the world close their eyes and allow unstructured alternatives to come up in a lopsided manner, it would be as disastrous as religions are today. It is, therefore, the duty of the people of the world to assert the difference between 'What They Need' and 'What They Want'. We cannot expect things to change on its own, as the grass grows by itself, the cooperation and collaborative efforts of people can make it happen. The growth of human evolution and civilization are virtues, so pursuing the path of progress with conviction and commitment is crucial to bring an appropriate change in the world.

Everything that exists in the universe has an expiry date, nothing will last forever. Such is the law of nature, but whenever a new method is introduced to usher change, then simultaneously a new way to start an argument also takes place to prevent change. In such arguments, people try to find out 'Who is Right'. Obviously, this creates doubt and doubt is deliriously dreadful. When in doubt silence is a wrong stance to dispel disbelief. Doubts like fingernails never stop growing, no matter how many times you cut them. Therefore, it's imperative for people to participate, involve and engage in an open public debate to find out 'What is Right' and not argue to find 'Who is Right'.

With free open discussions, we can straight away arrive at a well thought-out and a well-planned alternative to religions, by revaluation and re-validation of universal spiritual values and practices, covering the qualities of compassion, morality, wisdom, truthfulness, love, liberty, peace, harmony, oneness and assisting people how to disengage their true 'Self' from their false 'Ego', just like sifting the wheat from the chaff. 'Satyadharma' is based on this prime primordial premise, where the spiritual seeker walks on an extremely narrow path of 'Self' [mind] and 'Soul' [consciousness] and discovers what he seeks, like a squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Spiritual realities are before us, not everyone perceives it. So let us come closer, observe them, and turn around our life to make our living better than it is right now. The author just wants the world to see spiritual realities and reject all false reli-

gious beliefs, superstitions, and rituals. Truth is revealed through personal 'Experience' and not by blindly following any 'Belief System' like religions, etc. Only spiritual realities, not religious beliefs, can make rigid minds to move in the right direction, aspiring seekers to attain the highest state of truth, even if the laws of nature work behind the scenes and spiritual laws struggle to reveal the truth. Those who detect will discover the truth. Those who try to bridge and fuse religion with spirituality will find it as difficult as to shoe a running horse.

The proposed 'Global Religion of 21st Century' or some may prefer to call it the 'Creed of Creative Consciousness' or a 'Religionless Religion' or the 'Tenets of Truth' of a 'Creed-less Creed' is certainly not a bookish submission, but a new untried, unproven, practical and rational concept, which is 'Self-Devised' by the 'Self-Deliberations' of a 'Spiritual Seeker' individually, through his personal 'Self-Efforts', using spiritual values as a tool to set his own milestones, and experience 'Spiritual Awakening' at personal level, as a twice-born. Then if the seeker lives for many decades or not, it hardly matters anymore. It's no more time but a new person, who now bears the mark of 'Wisdom' difficult to gather, is what eventually matters, in the grand evolution of a new spiritual human being.

The fundamental truth of universe pre-exists, be it the stone-age, medieval age, modern age, digital age or the coming space age, yet it's unrecorded by transitory time. Therefore, 'Truth' appears and disappears and is lost in the time zones, where, when and why, no one knows. Consequently, the world has to wait for thousands of years, before the lost truth re-emerges in its full glory. 'Satyadharma' or spirituality is that long-lost truth that can universally appeal all the faith followers, as it does not force anyone to follow any system of belief. There is no compulsion except to share spiritual realities and experiences for people to reflect on spirituality, as a practical option to forge social harmony and create a conflict-free world, where a man does not kill a man for his religion.

The author has devised four stages of spiritual practice in a sequential order for the convenience of all the new entrants or the spiritual seekers. The method is suggestive, and not a dogmatic discipline, to be followed rigidly. Seekers are free to have their own way, without subscribing to any dictated doctrines,

prone to delusion and not to deliverance. Seekers may essentially reflect on two main aspects [1] the 'Exploration of Self' and [2] that each person is 'Unique' in his own way. After all, spirituality is the art to turn the energy of expansion inward so that a greater inner growth takes place. Each person is a free spiritual spirit. As such, he must seek his own inner path and pursue it at his own level, within the precincts of his personal domain.

The following procedure is suggestive and universal to use. It starts from self-effort and ends in effortlessness:

SWADHAYA

Literally, Swadhaya means 'Self Study', introspection and the analysis of one's own 'Self'. Here the seeker decides to dive deep within, to scan his 'Inner Core', where no one is there to dictate or direct him, except his inner voice, as a 'Guide', leading him into the province of a profound 'Stillness' of his own consciousness, distanced and detached completely from his mercurial mind. After knowing the ethereal presence of 'Consciousness' the seeker now wants to know something more, so he works on a 'Self Devised' spiritual procedure that suits him, which consists of a set of his own beliefs, exclusively based on his personal experience, known as:

SWADHARMA

Swadharma is a self- created 'Personal Creed' tailored and customized by the seeker himself to suit his own ability, and cater to his personal specific spiritual needs, derived from his own 'Self Awareness' from the foundation of his own thoughts and feelings, as a 'Self Selected Spiritual System' prepared by him, through his 'Self Knowledge' and 'Self Experience', and not as a 'Public Prescription' administered by religions as a 'Herd Mentality', and forced upon faith followers en masse. Soon after scripting his own 'Article of Faith', the seeker diligently fuses his self-invented personal 'Swadharma' with the time-tested universal spiritual values and standards recognized as:

SATYA DHARMA

Satyadharma is recognized as the 'Tenets of Truth' a compen-

dium that contains the distilled version of universal spiritual values and standards, free from religious beliefs, and are focused essentially on the 'Exploration of Self' to hasten the growth of 'Spiritual Wisdom', besides, adhering to the principles of moral laws and the laws of nature. When universal values of 'Satyadharma' are aligned to fine-tune with the seeker's allied 'Swadharma', it enhances and lends a much deeper spiritual implication and importance to it that endeavors to ensure seeker's journey on his self-paved spiritual path is smooth and culminates in the 'merger' of his personal consciousness with cosmic consciousness, the ultimate spiritual experience, which brings a blissful state of pure enlightenment.

SANATAN DHARMA

Literally, Sanatan Dharma means 'Eternal Dharma' or the everlasting truth, which starts unfolding after the union of 'Seeker's Self' with 'Cosmic Consciousness'. This insight cracks and crumbles the wall of all human limitations. Then nothing is left to know more as the seeker abandons the baggage of religions and spirituality he carries on his head. Now with a clean slate he perceives himself as 'One' with cosmic infinity. As infinity is 'unknowable' so he merges himself in the cosmic mystery to experience being 'Alive' in the unfathomable eternity, just as the masters of the mystics, he too now knows, how little he knows, and discovers nobody can ever know or reveal the 'Whole' truth, when the gap between his 'Belief' and 'Reality' is widened as an everlasting breach, then except 'Nothing' he accepts 'Everything', and his desire to live the 'Life of the Body' [pleasures] or the 'Life of the Mind' [ego] dissolves. Now, the enlightened seeker spends the rest of his life in the light of 'Pure Existence' as a silent stoic 'Seer', one who now lives naturally with full consciousness, fearlessly and freely in a state of 'Oneness' and uses his spiritual wisdom deftly to work in his day-to-day life, thus living in harmony and happiness, fully aware of his pure 'Being'. Now he is totally at peace with himself [internally] and with the world [externally].

WRAPPING UP

It is here that magic, miracle, madness, and mystery mesmerizes and masquerades in many forms, transcending the body and the mind to a wordless domain of 'Godliness' where the seeker gets the glimpse of the unknowable. In this timeless trek, his state of 'Being' and 'Becoming' comes to an end and he experiences the 'Pure State of Existence' with full consciousness. When the veil between 'this world' and the 'other world' is lifted 'Oneness' is experienced, a pure state of bliss and harmony called 'Enlightenment'.

It is here the seeker realizes that each human being is gifted in a unique way, to play an equally important role in the working of the whole cosmic plan. Religion does not help people to discover their uniqueness and this important role. Only spirituality is the most appropriate way to find out one's own 'Individual Light' and experience consciousness a state of 'Bliss'. Yet, this bliss alone may not be the final spiritual attainment, as mind seeks the immortal in the mortal and the ethereal in the ephemeral.

It is here the seeker's ignorance disappears finally. It is here the light of spiritual wisdom takes him beyond the realm of Gods. It is where everything seems to be 'Nothing'. It is here that 'Nothing' seems to be 'Something' beyond his understanding. It is here that the word 'God' is used as a metaphor to express the omnipresent 'Consciousness' in 'Eternity'. It is here the mindset of the seeker changes spontaneously. It is here from where a new spiritual personality of humanity will emerge and spread the message of 'Oneness' and 'Peace' in the whole world, by spiritual collaboration and cooperation, and not by religious competition and carnage.

CONNECT WITH COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS

Everything in the cosmos is 'Moving' the earth, moon, sun and stars. If everything is moving, there ought to be something 'Still' that makes it move. What is that? Is it God? Everything in the body is 'Moving' the blood, heart, organs and thoughts. If everything is moving in the body, there ought to be something 'Still' that makes everything to move in the body. What is that?

Is it the Soul? It is true that beyond beliefs there is silence and beyond silence there is 'Stillness'. Even if, the theory of contrast is applied here, it seems the definition of 'God' and 'Soul' any which way, we may try to define, is nothing else but a mental construct, and at its best, the idea of God as a 'Cosmic Constant' concretized by the sages of the east, as a 'tool' to penetrate the frontiers of the 'Unknown' and the 'Unknowable' realms hypothetically, on a mathematical model, to unravel the unfathomable cosmic mysteries of universe, emerges as the most brilliant concept of God, indeed.

Senses create emotions and brain thoughts. The sum total of emotions and thoughts is called the 'Mind'. Mind as the master of the body decides its own Karma. So a healthy mind and body are imperative to perform righteous deeds. Mind includes the flavor of emotions and the taste of thoughts, while cosmic connection creates a natural bubble of consciousness, the 'Soul Sphere' superimposed by the smokescreen of the mind, which sees the world in relative terms that are waking, sleeping and dreaming, while consciousness sees the world in absolute terms as a 'Seer'. Relativity creates duality and absolute oneness. Unspoiled presence of 'Consciousness' is despoiled by the mind to obscure the spirit of consciousness. Consciousness defiled by the mind is regained by introspection and the mind is controlled by the art of breathing and meditation. Consciousness is often revealed in a state of 'No Mind' as consciousness alone can know consciousness, what mind can never know. Thus mind ends up creating its own reality, a world of illusions and duality. Consciousness is the ultimate truth that stands out alone as oneness or 'That', which cannot be explained, when object becomes the subject and subject becomes the object.

In meditation when the focus on the 'Body-Mind' is pushed to the background, heart continues to beat and mind continues to produce thoughts. So, don't get entangled in the labyrinth of thoughts or prevent thoughts from flowing naturally, just watch them come and go, as a silent 'Seer' does with a stoic gaze. There is something 'Still' in the constantly moving mind, body and the cosmos, which endures forever. Know this 'immortal' truth. When the 'Mind' drops the 'Seer' within becomes the

'Receiver' who is now free and ready to connect with cosmic consciousness, as the antenna catches the airwaves. The state of cosmic consciousness is often glimpsed when people are not ready for it to happen. Suddenly, the spiritual secret that 'All is one and one is all' is stamped on the mind as a lifelong memory of 'Oneness' that continues to linger, never to fade the insight, with the opening of the so-called third eye of the 'Seer'.

When thoughts and languages fail then silence becomes the tool to communicate with invisible cosmic energies. Meditation is a challenge to silence the mind. Consciousness knows what the mind cannot know. Hard it is to talk in silence. But 'truth' is often received in silence, what words cannot grasp and the mind cannot think what full consciousness can make us feel. It's not an attainment. Consciousness is always present as a 'Seer'. It is forever awake and never sleeps. Consciousness is a continuum. It is not located anywhere in the body. Body-mind is in the embrace of consciousness. Cosmic consciousness is not the creator but the 'Source' of everything that comes and goes back in cosmic consciousness, so nothing is apart and everything is a part of it. Consequently, no one comes here or goes anywhere. We have always existed in cosmic dimensions as one fascinating moment 'Now' in the unborn timeless infinity. Cosmic consciousness is 'That' eternal 'Now' that never ends. Unlike the past, present or future a measure of manmade time that comes to pass.

We are a combination of body, mind and soul or consciousness. Yet, some subtle layers do exist as well which constitutes the invisible 'Airy Aspect' of the human body. Explained by example, assume cosmic consciousness is a big blank canvas, then life force is the base paint, the sketch drawn is the personal consciousness, paint box the five senses, emotions the colors, and brain the transmitter of thoughts, mind the mixer of colors, thoughts the brush loaded with emotive and thoughtful drippings, runs down the surface of the canvas, to make a self portrait. Literal meaning of this analogy may not be appropriate, as truth is not explained through examples, truth reveals itself 'as it is' so know this example as a sequel and not as a fact, as we are fully fused human beings, and by no means can we ever dissect

one part from the other. But how we all are connected together as 'One' can be explained by a simpler similarity, by imagining that the thread of a pearl necklace is cosmic consciousness, and we all are the plentiful pearls strewn on the thread, and the necklace is whole humanity.

Anyhow, let us understand by another analogy. Beginning from a humble spring, the river keeps losing water, every time the sun shines, and keeps gaining water, every time the rain falls, and then merges into the sea. It keeps changing and in change it is constant, and by changing consequently, it has neither a beginning nor an end. What happens to the water that leaves the river and where does it go? It rises up the sky as clouds, and then falls down as rain, on the ground, river or the sea. This cycle signifies that the essence of all oceans and clouds dwells in us. Can water disappear? No, all that is, will always be, what it is. It may change forms, like water turning into a cloud, then rain, and then a river or the sea. What it can never cease to be what it is. It is the core of energy and energy is neither created nor destroyed but is transformed from one form to another. Energy is eternal, what comes next, in which form, doesn't matter, because the essence of energy, remains one and the same.

How does 'soul' as a part of cosmic consciousness enter the body? The author believes that a spark of cosmic consciousness ignites the 'Heart' of the fetus, which begins to 'Throb' with a jolt, and suddenly a piece of flesh is sensitized and activated. Science has failed to unravel the ingress of consciousness and its imperceptible power in human beings. This extraordinary phenomenon occurs in the making and shaping of the human body in mother's womb. When the human body comes in existence, it stays for a while and then vanishes into non-existence. Consciousness goes back to consciousness, elements into elements, thus restarting the cycle of physical and non-physical energies. There is no escape from the cycle of life and death, as everything in the cosmos that appears in any form or in formlessness will soon disappear and reappear over and over again in a cyclical cycle.

The size of consciousness when it enters the human body is smaller than the smallest subatomic particle on earth, and re-

sides in the heart as the beater of the heart beats, and grows into a big 'Soul Sphere' around the human body as a seed grows into a huge tree. Reversely, before it exits from the body, it shrinks back to its original size, and escapes from an opening of the body, according to its karmic departure, carrying with it, the traces of its karmic impressions, accumulated as its core character, its basic nature does not change, and by the virtue of its karmic accruals, it enters another body. However, when it attains freedom from karma the state of 'Nirvana', after countless births, it escapes from the cycle of life on planet earth, and enters another cycle of life, on some other celestial body in space, in some different spatial dimensions and elements unknown to human beings.

The human script is written by its genetic code. There is no producer or no a director of the play, yet the actors pull off the play so well, by performing their roles on the stage of human life. Human beings are receptors of cosmic consciousness that cast a subtle effect on them by some ethereal influence, which cannot be explained but is experienced. Therefore, we need to dissolve the false 'Self' in the ocean of consciousness. When all false identities are unmasked, one by one, one is left with the purity of innocence and the essence of one's true nature. Then all distorted perceptions and disconnections disappear, attaining the state of timelessness, oneness, and immortal laws of nature. This leads to inner illumination, a state of 'Enlightenment' sages and spiritual seekers desire to dwell, as long they are alive on earth.

There are roads. There is walking and walkers, who walk on the roads. Ironically, there is no destination to reach on the roads, on which they walk, because there is no destination or purpose in eternity, except the essence of existence. The cosmic journey is orbital and not linear. So human curiosity and the urge to explore never ends, to know what lies beyond the known, even as nature repeats itself, as seasons do. There is no purpose yet events happen. There are deeds, but there is no doer of deeds. There is air but no blower of air. yet, the procession of karma goes on, and its effect is continuously transferred to the mind, shaping characters and aspirations of the people as 'Rebirth' of karma, mistaken as the transmigration of soul, believed as a spirit, a ghost or a separate entity that migrates

from one body to another. Human consciousness flows freely in mutation of its distinctive characteristics acquired or gained by grinding in the 'Cycle of Life and Death' not as a separate entity or a smoky silhouette but as 'Akashic Akshar' embedded with encoded experiences of life's lived by the human beings in time, and encapsulated in the subtle layers of cosmic DNA, enabling evolutionary processes to continue.

Finally in the end, if any spiritual seeker was to ask the author, 'What will he gain by following Spirituality or Satyadharma?', his answer would be absolutely 'Nothing'. How can the author unravel a mystery, when he himself is part of that same mystery, he is trying to decode and decipher? The question before everybody is, 'Is your view or my view of the universe true?' Both of us are wrong. We see a multi-dimensional world with our limited three-dimensional view, which is not the reality of the universe. But, after gaining personal spiritual experience, through the suggested method, the seeker can certainly reach the stage that can lead him to discard all false beliefs forever and the creed he upholds from birth. When a change of mind takes place then the true reflection of 'Who We Are' is experienced, then all thoughts are seen as illusions, then consciousness alone is realized as the ultimate reality that shines like a star in darkness and like the moon sheds light in a cloudless sky. So what I say and write, let the readers recognize it, as their own saying and writing since we all ultimately derive truth from the same source.

CHAPTER 6

What Is Satya Dharma?

Satydharma represents universal spiritual values

Human beings are endowed with an intangible mental energy that empowers their thoughts, their disposition and their state of mind. It is the base, from where the spiritual seeker can reach higher faculties of refined thoughts, and feelings, free from raw animalistic sensuality, into a state of superior spiritual synchronization.

Satyadharma is the understanding of one's own mind. There is a universal natural law operating in the domain of human consciousness. It is the process of distillation of those thoughts and feelings, which lead to a rational state of mind that concerns the individual's transformation of inner restlessness to an enduring calmness.

Satyadharma does not refer to mediums or psychics or spirits or contactees of the dead. It is an understanding of consciousness that allows comprehending the reality of whole existence, in its unified yet relative terms. It is a sanctimonious experience, without being religious. It is an individual to an individual's own belief system. It's based on one's own personal attitude and needs no institution to regulate or any Guru to follow. It is the path that transcends all divisions and the damage done by religions in times gone by, and sadly that damaging practice, still continues to work even today.

Satyadhrama lays emphasis on the prospect to deal with our inner state of being and to be righteous without seeking any external support, dependence or assistance of God(s). It does not believe in renouncing the world, instead, it promotes to accept the challenges and problems of life and how to deal with them face-to-face.

The evolution as spiritual beings is subtle and a nameless process that goes unnoticed. The name 'Satyadharm' is a sticky tag, stuck steadily to simply identify this fine process, purposely to avoid people being misled by religionists and charlatans. Be-

sides, what the author is saying is not something new, it was said earlier. He is just presenting a recycled wisdom of the wise sages, for people to think over all over again, what they had forgotten long ago.

Spirituality is not a philosophy. It is a non-verbal moment of experience of being alive in the eternity of cosmic consciousness, a catalyst to change that takes place, when all belief systems, ancient or modern, religious or scientific are dissolved, facts must take precedence over theory and not vice versa. Right understanding comes when the mind is receptive to change and free from all false beliefs.

The end of organized religions is not a question to be grieved since it is the moment to validate the fact that open-mindedness can change a lopsided way of thinking. But complex mechanisms working on same grounds, molded by manipulators, can incapacitate the shift of religions to spirituality, as something unknowingly can cling with the unsettled mess, wrongly, to prevent a smooth transition.

Satyadharma stands for conviction in oneself and the laws of nature, and accepting the principle of 'Cause and Effect', and recognizing that all that is meaningful does not essentially have a meaning, and all that is meaningless can be meaningful too. The human mind is often curious and eager to know everything, but human limitations and hidden mysteries of the universe prevent human mind to comprehend the whole cosmic reality truthfully.

Satyadhrama respects existence and accepts humanity as 'One' and not as Indians, Americans, Russians, Chinese or labeled as Buddhist, Hindu, Christian or a Muslim. Once this is grasped all the walls of division built by atrocities in the name of patriotism and religious crusades cave in, then we identify human race as one family and the world as one home for humanity. Then 'Oneness' starts flowing and fills the world with the fragrance of love for all.

The world existed without religions. Religions are merely five thousand years old, a fraction of time in the timepiece of world history and the development of social order. All man-made religions were meant to meet a precise requirement of

time. Therefore, when religions change with time they remain relevant, if not, religions become outdated and survive merely by a manipulative mechanism, other than the elements of spirituality described as Satyadharma are persistent, perennial and permanent.

Questions raised and addressed by religions concern mostly on issues centered on God, creation of universe, existence, and afterlife, even though, science has not made any significant headway, towards answering these questions so far, let Satyadharma do that now, by highlighting the golden path that leads to the knowledge of one's inner reality, riveted to realism and poised to raise above, all false beliefs and fantasies, bred by religions.

Extraordinary ability is not required to lead a moral life. A morally upright life is essential for human relationships. It is the moral engagement in the world that enhances the quality of character such as honesty etc. Morals are the base of Satyadharma, and acts without egocentric bearing, imperative to form, an awareness of one's own self-understanding. Can we appreciate tranquility without a tempest? Can we know peace without pandemonium?

Five senses and its interplay limit human perception. To know what lies beyond receptiveness is an evolutionary happening that drives a responsive person to a limitless space. This is the uncreated state of being, which goes beyond the ideology of all religions. Yet, the world is in constant danger by the harmful forces created to satiate the ravenous greed of the self-seeking human beings. Satyadharma will take people to a deeper level of their being, beyond the material and emotional aspect of life, aspiring each person to be his own 'Guru' and his own 'Scripture'.

The longing of the heart to experience cosmic consciousness is the soul of Satyadharma, and the spirit to go beyond the frontiers of the material world is seated within. Since we too are a part of infinity, there is a constant search to know, what infinity is, in as many ways, as possible. Some wait for the unexplained events to happen, and some encounter them in the normal events of their life. The intangible is 'Unseen' by the na-

ked eye. Here, the old rules do not apply anymore, so a person must make his own rules, to suit him, on his inner journey.

Reality is within us, the 'Guru' and 'God' are within us. Nature is the creator so follow the laws of nature, to lead a natural life. Don't believe in Gods created by religions or the marketplace Gurus for a safety net. Genuine Gurus are rare. False Gurus exploit trusting people, under their shelter as slaves.

Satyadharma unloads the baggage of learning people carry on their head and initiates the de-learning process that culminates to bestow the vision and the vista to relearn all over again anew, bringing back the innocence gone astray. In innocence rests our real nature, where consciousness dwells in its natural purity.

Satyadharma emphasizes one should not live wholly the 'Life of the Body' in the pursuit of physical expression. Instead, one must live fully the 'Life of the Mind' and nurture the qualities of wit and wisdom. Since the mind is encircled by the clouds of thoughts, the pure mind can manifests only, when the haze of ignorance fades away.

It's an error to see ourselves as a 'body-mind' combination and forget our true nature, which is a blissful state of 'Consciousness'. Mistakenly we believe our happiness lies in material possessions and carnal pleasures, so the chase for money begins and sense pleasures become our purpose of life. Though the power of money and sensual pleasures are temporary, our desires are never satisfied and we want more and more of it. We are spiritual beings but our spirituality rests in slumber and needs to be awakened. Satyadharma is the only course of action to trigger spiritual awakening and arouse our curiosity to know more, for the accumulation of 'Self-knowledge'.

There is an inner vibe or voice of rationality, stirring from our conscience, expressing the sense of right and wrong, through subtle feelings. We must listen or rather feel these sensations. So, we must make every effort to strike a conversation with our 'Inner-Self' to feel the wisdom of naturalness, and the spontaneity of prudence. Our relationship with nature and our personal experiences spell different definitions at variance with others. Since 'Self-Inquiry' is an individual-centric perceptive so its de-

scription differs from a person to person.

All religions begin and finish with God, whereas Satydharma starts and ends with the Human Being. In religion people reach out to God, they may or may not find him, but through Satyadharma people are sure to discover themselves and find out who they are. Satyadharma completely avoids the canons of conjectures, comparisons, and controls. It is a communication to connect with our natural state of being.

Depending on outer assistance to unfold the inner being is to rob the real result of a spiritual understanding. So, we should make our own efforts. Once we know that what we seek is accessible within, then someone else's support and advice, as to how we should live our lives is not needed. There are many ways out of which, we need to choose, the modus operandi that suits us right, to reach the inner core, the essence of our real being.

What is Satyadharma? Literally, it means the 'Religion of Truth'. Big explanations tend to wipe out its essence and meaning so its definition is diverted. Each one of us tends to interpret it according to his personal understanding and consequently end up misinterpreting its correct meaning. When we define Satyadharma, we are inclined to analyze it logically, but it is beyond logic, it is, after all, an exploration of mystery, to discover the essence of life. We live in a veiled and vast mysterious space. When all is an immense mystery, then we should accept to be a part of whole mystery to know the mystery, or without knowing it, live with mystery, which we don't know.

Satyadharma is not a line of thought or the creation of any school of thought, nor is its definition available in the scriptures. It is simply based on self-experience alone. It is practical and not a speculation. People seek solace in spirituality, and for educated spirituality is not confined to any religion. It is more about seeking the deeper truths to attain self-knowledge, and with no pretension, become aware of the natural state of human existence. This natural state of life and living is not a thing to be achieved. It's an inherent integral part of each human being.

In the state of blissful consciousness, the finest hidden potential from within begins to flow, and our physical faculty's start functions better to get higher levels of latent energies. Ecstasy

unchains the fetter of human limitations and activates the inner core of energy, in such a way, the body and mind functions at the highest peak of consciousness. Satyadharma is the right technique to find the ultimate expression of our existential existence.

Far away, beyond consciousness, there exists an uncreated formless formation in the making, hard to decode. Yet, the inquest to seek, what lies beyond human limitations is so tenacious that, even if, the human mind cannot reach there, it tries to get there, in vain. The journey of life is not meant to meet the manmade benchmark of material possessions, money, power, and fame. In fact, the voyage of living beings ends in eternity. In the timeless endless eternity, there is no destination to reach. Accordingly, all natural processes help us to understand, to be fully conscious of our trip to eternity. As consciousness knows consciousness, it can follow eternity like a shadow.

Every human being has the birthright, to go ahead with his life, the way he wants to lead it. He may or may not follow any religion. Satyadharma is simply a personal choice and not something to be forced on any person, even if, it provides a wider perception. When the mind is open, only then the idea of Satyadharma can be thought out, as a suitable suggestion. However, the response must come from within and not through any external promptings.

Satyadharma reveals nothing new but takes the mind to eternal realities. The knowledge of the eternal elevates human consciousness to higher levels of understanding. Then everything is viewed on relative terms. Uniformity and diversity become 'One' and the composition of the cosmos begins to unfold its dependence on natural laws of co-existence and interdependence. If we recognize all men are one, then we should also recognize that each man is different too. All men are one is an absolute code. Each man is different is a relative code. Relative unity cannot exist without differences, which means human differences and oneness are two sides of a coin.

Intuition is a hidden feature of the human psyche, an awareness that comes to us naturally, yet is not definable. It is true that there are different worlds beyond our physical world. Saty-

adharma empowers us with the supremacy of Spirituality, which helps us unravel the invisible realms, beyond what is visible to the naked human eye.

Satyadharma connects us to a thoughtless-emotionless seer state of consciousness. This is the state of natural 'Being' sans becoming a creation of a manmade world. Once we enter this state, we link ourselves to the collective consciousness. Then we are no more an individual entity, we become a universal being. Then we see the entire mankind and the world as one and identify our universal nature of oneness.

The human body and mind are aligned with the axis of cosmic matter and energy. Energy is referred to as spirit, the sum total of thoughts and emotions. Satyadharma is the art of living the life of the mind. Since Satyadharma is not an idea, as such, it cannot be shaped as a religion. It remains in its pristine form forever. One can experience it, in the subtleness of energy fields from within and outside, opening many facets of a multidimensional cosmos.

It is necessary to be familiar with the state of consciousness, tied together with body-mind as a single entity. The human mind often lives on, outer layers of perception, to know the world. The understanding of inner being is rather deeper than the shallow knowledge of the mind. Skill to know 'Inner Being' is developed by spirituality.

Satyadharma is silent on the existence and non-existence of God. The unseen God of religions is based on human imagination. But the laws of nature are evident, so they never go unnoticed. Satyadharma believes in the law of Karma, what we sow is what we reap. If we make a mistake, we are bound to face its consequences. If we recognize this basic principle of Karma, we surely would be more cautious with our deeds and thoughts.

Satyadharma reflects on the fundamental inquiry 'Who Am I'. This means humans crave to browse the manual of life and living, the world has not produced or published so far. Truly speaking there is no 'Who', it's an outcome of a philosophical mind. Spirituality is not a philosophy; it is a 'non-verbal' moment of experience of being 'Alive' in the eternity of cosmic consciousness. The curiosity to know and educate the mind and

to observe things in proper perspective is perennial, whereas enlightenment through self-realization is a spiritual attainment.

Miracles in the name of religion are tricks to dodge reality and mount erroneous and false belief in the heads of the faith-followers treated like a herd. Religions serve to suppress, the spirit of free inquiry, and promote blind faith. Satyadharma shows the way to verified and verifiable facts. It does not formulate any theory or therapy. It evokes the rationale that brings reverence for natural living and respect for each human being individually.

Satyadharma promotes the procedure for self-introspection, which overcomes human weaknesses, and makes one sufficiently strong to face the adversities in life with utmost composure. Challenges and hardships are a part of life, they come and go. If we are fully prepared to deal with any eventual setback in life, and have faith in ourselves, then obviously, we can find suitable solutions, to solve our problems, as and when they arise.

To be truthful to oneself is the real meaning of spiritual study. From diverse information loaded from various religions and cultures, Satyadharma distills every thought of line to oneness, evolving the process to transform a human being to be humane. Thus, only through spirituality the purity of heart and harmony is achieved.

Uncertainty is undefined and cannot be confined in a category. Spirituality is a constant mystical longing, the freedom to find a way, to think beyond thoughts, the feeling of being in communion with oneself, scaling to rise above to the level of consciousness, a state beyond explanation, and an idea much bigger than the actual experience of being alive.

Only Human beings face the dilemma to decide their own actions, rest all other living beings act on their natural instincts according to their own nature. In human beings instincts spin around the body, and spirituality is at the core of the mind, this dichotomy needs a balancing act. Hence human beings are constantly struggling to get their act right. Life is a laboratory. Human species get an opportunity to experiment and rise above to a higher level of evolution. To speed up this process, Satyadharma equips people to opt for 'Right Understanding' and right

living.

Satyadharma spells out things 'As They Are' and not as it is perceived differently by each human being. Spirituality does not rely on the last word of outdated religions, it believes in the law of constant change and new beginnings. No master or a messiah or any religion can assert to hold on to their writ for long. Sooner or later the inevitable law of change prevails to discard the old, and establish a new social order. Satyadharma has a universal appeal and belongs to whole humanity. It trains people to think independently and to look at the realities of life.

Religions were invented as a consequence of human endeavor to find 'contentment' that can lead to enduring happiness. Mired by the spillover of valid and invalid implications of religious beliefs, let no one tell anyone to pick up a religion, it would isolate the person, from knowing the fundamental truth. Let a person seek to know the truth himself, if people were not born with a religion, no one in the world would follow any religion. That's for sure.

Satyadharma is not based on speculation, it's a truth-seeking trial to test, a direct dialogue with the inner self, which is silent, subtle and sublime. We all live in a state of sleep, in a dream world of our own making. There are moments when we are awake, and become conscious of our trancelike stillness. Or else, most of the time we are in deep slumber, we never ever try to know, why we are here and what is the purpose of our life. In order to know this we must know ourselves, and come out from the state of sleep. We are in fact, lost in daydreaming living a life choked with illusions and deceptions. We must stop fooling ourselves and wakeup to the realities of life.

The quest to know our 'Self' is a natural trait of a reasonable mind. Self-knowledge is the beginning and Self-realization the end. Knowing this adds meaning to life. We live a life of mind, rather on physical level. The mind is powerhouse of conscious and unconscious energies. To know the source, we need to experience and channelize these energies in the natural spontaneous process of evolution. Self-knowledge activates ones dormant power and accepts interdependence of all living beings and non-living things as a common denominator. No knowledge

is knowledge unless it is lived and experienced. The truth is no more an idea but reveals itself as a way of life.

After self-realization one is at peace with himself and the world, set free from the trappings of desires, anger, greed, ego, and attachments. When the blotched baggage is unloaded, and loads of labels of society shredded, then the enlightened person radiates purity, unconditional love, and compassion, the vital values and virtues.

The social nature of mind pursues worldly success, and the spiritual nature of mind seeks that which is within. Living a superfluous materialistic life brings fatigue, whereas internal quest leads to the source of boundless energy. Our Inner being and outer being is not separate but a single entity with different attributes. Body and mind have its own equations, yet consciousness links them together. Living the life of the body or the mind brings unhappiness. Living life with full consciousness and being alive in the cosmos for a moment brings joy.

We dwell in a man-made world and so we have snapped our connection with the natural world. We need to reconnect ourselves with nature, the cradle and burial ground of life and death, and at the center of existence, we find same life, same urge, same quest, same inquest, same agony, same ecstasy, everything is same, and there are no divisions, except the oneness of mankind, and the existence of one world.

The conscience or the inner self is centered on universal moral values, cultivating a sense of right and wrong, which helps to scrutinize and separate the good from the bad. When we learn to listen to the inner voice, before we decide to act, then our thoughts and actions are in sync with ourselves and the world for good karma.

Human DNA is programmed to evolve from raw instincts to reason, from reason to cosmic intelligence through spirituality. The time is ripe and mankind is mature to embrace the state of spirituality. Sightless manifold layers of energies and unsighted multiple dimensions all co-exist in space, this invisible dimension is beyond the grasp of the human mind, yet it's too powerful and all-pervading. Fusion with visible and invisible forces is a spiritual endeavor, from where human limitations stop spirituality

begins. Gaining spiritual or self-knowledge creates new awareness, to foster a new world order, embedding the elements of comprehensive cosmic intelligence.

There are people who put their whole life in the quest of religion and become fanatical about their God(s) and religious beliefs and waste a lifetime looking for an imagined divine dispensation. Spirituality frees people from this mental repression. So it's essential to de-link Satyadharma from religion. The correct 'Satyadharmic' approach is based on living a natural life, which is far more important, for the well-being of a human being, than following blindly, the invented Holy Books, false religious beliefs, rituals, and superstitions.

Satyadharma does not command blind following from its practitioners. A 'Satyadharmic' is not a slave to a book on spirituality, or to any self-proclaimed Gurus, or so-called Gods, nor does he forfeits the freedom of thought. He uses his freewill and develops his own understanding, from his personal experiences, by removing all fetters and factors which obstruct his way. He uses his own yardstick of thinking to understand himself, as to what is right or wrong. He attempts individually to gain transparency and self-reliance; instead of depending on prayers he prefers meditation to promote self-discipline to enlightenment, by freeing oneself, from all kinds of slavish mentality.

The character of creedal conviction has disappeared from religions. Now, spirituality alone can render the ouster of worn out redundant religions from the world. The model of Satyadharma imbibes the essence of spirituality, intended to stimulate a meaningful debate before the paradigm shift takes place. Even otherwise, the reshaping of religions is almost certain to happen before long. Satyadharma will finally snap this vicious cycle, as a solution to the problem, a safe and sound system of universal perception, which allows room to contemporary views, to impel change and go forward, without claiming, to be the final word.

Human life is made of thoughts and emotions, intentions and actions, driven by genetic engineering, and close influences, past experiences, and memories, rushing rudderless ravenously, to fulfill drifting desires, unappeasable. Under such fluid and floating conditions, each person is required, to spend a little

time alone, and talk to himself. Soliloquy with the inner-self helps to strike a balance within. It also helps to evaluate, where a person stands in life and he should be, the way he is, as per his unique nature. Self-discovery and assessment of his connection, with the world around him, is an essential part of the initial spiritual practice.

Self-introspection helps to discover the inner self, feel and experience own life and living, and the lives of those who are around, and further to know both the inner self and the outer shell. The strength of human life rests on the stability of one's inner being. One can have all the riches in the world and still be dissatisfied. Since we live only once and life is too short, so move ahead fast, to create a sense of balance within.

Religions roll around a specific pattern stuck in a grove. We need to break this pattern and look at things in totality, and not simply accept the conformist approach. Apart from reorganizing what we know, we need to look afresh at what we usually take for granted. Religions make and compel all to think alike in a typical type of herd mentality, further no one is encouraged to oppose false religious beliefs and suggest improvement whatsoever. One who dares is sent to the gallows. Religions make the simple complicated, spirituality makes the complicated simple.

We need to pursue the ways of life, the material and the spiritual as one, to live a balanced life. Both ways are essential for our external and internal development. But, in the pursuit of material goals, we tend to overlook our inner stirrings. Spirituality is the process to shift our attention from the external to the internal entity of our real self, unfolding a deep inner vision, which is our real nature. Materialism helps to sustain our mundane life, and spirituality takes us, to the higher evolutionary avenues.

In which direction the human society must march together? Ideally, people all over the world should put their mind and emotions collectively on the path of spiritual progress. The time has come for mankind to create a universal idea of spirituality, and oneness of humanity. Satyadharma is the new spirituality, which is indicative and suggestive, to lead a natural life judiciously, and not by any guiding principles or any dogmatic religious belief to

follow. Being open it allows the seeker to cultivate a suitable path that relates to his personal attitude.

Why wait to make a new start? Start right now, and exit quickly, from age old religious mindset, and hail the coming of a new spiritual beginning, surfacing to spread throughout the world. We have to be alive and reconcile with the hard realities of life. There are no preferred picks, and the shades of life have its own color. The spiritual aim is self-realization, a mental-emotional equilibrium, to gain spiritual wisdom, and a blissful state of happiness.

The timeless truth is served constantly in the ever-changing cycles of time. Our efforts must be to discover the ways and means to develop futuristic tools, and try to make them accessible to as many people as possible and not cart off or pull out or waste time. Time is precious, spend it wisely, once lost, no one gets one more chance.

There is a conflict between the body and the mind. The burden of delicate differences displayed is difficult to deal with. We find ourselves squeezed in a tight spot, living two different lives, the physical and the mental. Spirituality harmonizes them. When oneness is realized then all contradictions of duality disappear. Oneness becomes the central component of harmony between the two, enacting the balancing act. In eternity there is no starting point or a dead end, except nothingness in floating fluidity, frequently fettered, by magical and mystical events.

Spiritual sensibilities come from spiritual inquiry. Answers to questions: Who am I? What is the purpose of my life? Where do I go after death? Answers to these questions are beyond the scope of human understanding, response to mystical questions come from the subtle layer of consciousness. In this domain, the mind stops questioning and starts communicating in silence. Spirituality is in 'Being' and 'Becoming' one with the cosmic mystery. Infinite is the reservoir of cosmic consciousness, hence the human quest for more and more knowledge never ends. As the taste of salt is present everywhere in the ocean, the law of nature is also present everywhere in the universe. Nature is the creator of all things that exist in space. Nature is God.

The mind is neither here nor there, it is within us. So, look

within the mind, and see the person beyond his persona, which is the real inner self. Spirituality is the journey to discover inner self. Spirituality is not something to pursue at a later stage of life. It is something to do in all areas of life, to meet ends, like earning money, raising a family, paying bills, etc. Being spiritual is a state of being and not a phase of life. Take away the gods and goddesses from the lifeless places of worship to the living hearts of men and women, where 'Godliness' dwells and not gods.

Religions are manipulated by the priest, the pundit and the mullah. Rare is their willingness to debate reforms. Ridiculing, criticizing and imposing bans on religions can be counterproductive. Ideally, we should create an environment, where false religious beliefs find no place. Deriding religion can trigger hostilities. In a free society vocal variations for and against exist simultaneously. What is good for one cannot be good for others. Without disparaging any religion, the revival of spirituality is necessary. Spirituality is the soul of all religion. It enlightens a human being to live naturally in a world that is real and natural.

People are not interested to know how living beings, non-living beings, and the universe were created and who the creator is or is not. People simply want to know how to lead a happy life, so they spend their whole life in search of prosperity and peace of mind. People want a society that is based on ethical structures, not on religious scriptures. People know religions are regional and spirituality universal, religion is an ideology and spirituality the essence of human life. Whatever ways religions may employ, the world can never be converted to one religion, therefore the conflicts in the name of religions will never cease. All religious ideas have reached expiration date, only spirituality has no expiry date, it keeps relocating to new age, by blending the values of constantly changing age.

Spirituality is the path of rectitude, a catalyst to transform the mind. Wisdom supports spiritual life. Practitioners of spirituality review thoughts, feelings, inner and outer intentions objectively and independently, unbiased by praise or censure. By managing the mind, we can flow with the stream of thoughts, observe and discern the lesser and higher thoughts carefully. In

the initial stages, introspection and self-analysis helps us to become a silent observer of our own self. Then all inner and outer promptings stop, and we become a part of natural succession of earthly existence, as a human being present here, without a cosmic observer there in the vast cosmos.

Spirituality is about living a life in a way, where one is sensitive, to others feelings. He is a friend when someone needs him, and he is the one, who understands the value of the human relationship fully. In a spiritual experience, pure consciousness reveals itself profusely, as the architect of truth. The person suddenly discovers that he is not the body or the thinker of thoughts, he becomes the affirmation of 'Being' alive naturally.

There is a constant conflict between knowledge and ignorance, between dream and reality. It is conscience that does the balancing act. The sense of right and wrong comes from spiritual understanding. In Satyadharma, we are our own God. Our own God is the reflection of our own 'Godliness'. The holiness of this God is the mirror image of righteousness. The qualities of 'Human Godliness' are precious to be practiced, and not worthy to be worshiped. Satyadharma is rational and universally relevant. It supports a sweeping societal spiritual sight, where all kinds of religious divisions decline, giving way to spiritual truths.

Satyadharma is a spiritual awakening, and not a heavenly presumptuous journey because it is rooted to ground reality. When heavens in the air are invented, people move away from reality and end up in confusion and doubt. When living in reality, accept the constantly changing ways of the world, and face the uncertainties and pains of living on earth. Develop the heart as the center of affection, and discover love that never dies. Don't think of going to heaven when we are destined to live and to die on earth. Live life wholly and take joy, in what we are, as we are, and what we possess, without relating it to the scale of success or failure, which is a meaningless manmade expressions. Become a spectator, play around life, and enjoy it, as a comedy of sorts.

Satyadharma cannot be institutionalized, like religions with the holy book are, without any recourse or right to amend. One has to experience spirituality independently. It is subject to indi-

vidual effort and does not rest on any rigid concepts floated by others. There is no fixed definition of spirituality, as definitions are not always truthful. One person's definition can be a disinformation to another person. It is true the impulse of cosmic consciousness is continuously vibrating around us, eager to connect with a willing and precisely aligned human receptor. This link leads to a spiritual incident, experienced at a personal level. No language in the world can describe or classify the meaning of this connection. Time has come for people to accept that religions don't necessarily know the truth. He alone knows the truth, which is experienced individually.

Satyadharma is necessary for the evolutionary growth of an individual. It makes him creative, loving, sharing, caring and compassionate. All honest and honorable virtues and values spring up, in the heart of a person, who treads on the path of spirituality. Being spiritual is a natural quality of every human being. Spirituality is the philosophy of life. It is not something to believe, something to be lived, and something to be experienced. It is not a belief system planted in the minds of the people from birth. Spirituality is the real essence of a human being.

Self-knowledge is gained by self-understanding, a right path to sensate a person's feeling for faith. Thereafter, from this level of personal understanding, one can conceptualize his own faith, which needs no assumptions and assertions from outside and shines from the reflection of his inner being. This personal version of faith is meant exclusively, only for the one among us, and not for anyone else, or for everybody, or for masses, or for a group.

The material world does not provide answers to many questions, and dissatisfaction with the material world makes one spiritual. Spiritual seeking goes beyond the material world, into the multi-dimensional worlds shrouded in mystery. It gives a new holistic meaning to mysticism. Knowing this one is no more concerned about God or Soul, Heaven or Hell, theologies or anti-theologies, theist or atheist. Now, it becomes a quest to connect oneself with cosmic consciousness, an exploration into vast spaces of silence, empty spaces, and spaces with no end.

People spend whole life in learning and not in thinking.

Spirituality heightens perception and awareness to think. One becomes aware of the constant interplay of energies between a person and the world. One becomes aware that the whole universe is full of subtle vibrations. These vibrations come in contact with a fully conscious person and are transformed into thoughts to manifest, and thoughts have the power to guide and show the right path to live in the state of a blissful presence present within each person, yet if one is unconscious, he must make an earnest effort to be in this presence. This presence is pure consciousness, a state of our natural being.

Spiritual belongings don't come with the baggage of bogus and bragging spiritual scriptures. The presence of consciousness is a personal connection with higher energies. Under the presence of consciousness, one feels stable and spiritually energized. Spirituality means to be in sync with the inner self, the consciousness. It is not about sitting in front of an idol and worshipping it. Being a personal experience, it has nothing to do with religion. But flows from trust to faith in 'Oneself' and not in Gods and Holy books invented by the authors of religions.

Spirituality is defined in many ways, at times clearly and at times vaguely. Satyadharma conceptualizes and redefines the essence of spirituality, keeping all ambiguities at bay. When an idea gains acceptance for compliance, then universal spiritual values are used to explain, even though it's worth is devalued by religions. Concepts are never perfect because it is not possible to fit all data in one form, which leaves scope to inquire and improve. So, the possibility to question that Satyadharma is a personal religion cannot be ruled out, a difference of opinions never ceases, they exist forever. Why bother, don't give up the right path that leads to a right understanding.

Satyadharma is a positive deviant. It defies all norms of conventional religious practices. Spirituality is likely to develop faster because it has no hierarchy, no periphery and no center of control. Today, the world is at the threshold of a religionless society. Satyadharma will not be the death knell of religions. Society cannot be freed from religions suddenly, it will happen gradually. Seeing the decline of religions, we infer the future of Satyadharma is bright, because spirituality is more truthful than

religions are for people to pursue.

Religions have erred by taking the cover of terrorism and holding the world to ransom, by doing so religions have overstretched its brief. Obviously, there is a strong collective response, to pin down religions, by spiritual activism under the aegis of Satyadharma, and make the world religionless.

The idea that spirituality means to deny the luxuries of life is not correct, accordingly both facets of life material and spiritual are equally important, people must connect their consciousness with all day to day activities of life, and be alert and attentive to filter everything through spiritual insight. Though spirituality lies in inner awakening, it certainly does change the material surroundings radically, as well.

In the vast vacant space, there is nothing but emptiness and darkness, a little space of this vastness is occupied by objects, which appear and disappear, like a speck of dust in cosmic infinity. Human beings fear the unknown. The power of fear is very strong in all living beings. It is not fear but the fittest who survives. Man is the master of the animal kingdom. Today man faces no threat from animals, but man is still a big threat to man, and to other living beings. To keep a check on one man from dominating another man, first morality and then later punitive laws were framed and enforced. Since there are no superior species to dominate a man on earth, the concept of God as a superior celestial being was created, so that no one could question his existence. Thus a regulator of religion was invented by the authors of religions to enforce false religious beliefs on innocent faith-followers.

Within the sphere of spirituality, the question whether God exists or does not exist is meaningless. God is talked about by one who believes, and the one who does not believe his existence. Spirituality is beyond the theist and the atheist. It does not focus on God, but only on 'Man' and his nature, and the source from which, the thought of 'I' comes. The inquiry starts from the question 'Who am I?' and ends with the response 'That thou art' but what is 'I' is an enigma. That which is born before is not 'I' and that which is born after is not 'I'. But that which comes into life becomes 'I' and that which returns back to the

source is 'I'. The 'I' never comes or goes, it is always here. Since 'I exist', therefore, 'I am'. So, don't mix-up the ego of 'I' with the 'I' of the self, ego is a man's identification mark.

Through Satyadharma a spiritual seeker learns the meaning and magnitude of beginning, middle and end of life. This helps him to enhance the quality of his life, and make life a celebration of joy, emphasizing the urgency to live life naturally in a manmade world, and truthfully by negating falsehood. It is an exploration and discovery of 'Self' by oneself. It is spending time with 'Self' by oneself alone. It is making the efforts to introspect and being righteous and reasonable. Everyone is here to live his own truth, and not waste his life with the truth of others.

When the voice of conscience is heard, we know the consequences of being wrong. Then the journey towards righteousness begins. Now don't hesitate to fault or fail. Failure has led to success. Failure and success are relative terms. Worldly success is judged by wealth and spirituality by wisdom. Too much wealth than required, is acquired by fools, but too much wisdom, is too little for the wise. When a person departs, it is not wealth but wisdom that goes with him. Money, fame, and power are illusions. Therefore, master the art to 'Let Go' or renunciation or the capability to detach, which is essential to gain spiritual wisdom, mental peace, and happiness.

A heavy dose of greed has been injected into the money sedated society, so people have no time for spirituality. Spirituality is an experience, a breakthrough and a work-in-progress. Even when answers stop coming, the process of questioning does not stop. In the never-ending cosmic emptiness, response to nothingness is 'No Thing'. Learn to rest in wilderness, and stop seeking answers from emptiness. In the realm of the unknown, questions are answered by questions. When all questions of the seeker evaporate in the cosmic void, then the mind comes to a rest in cosmic emptiness, nothingness, and eternity. This is the great spiritual secret of the sages.

Spiritual practices like meditation and breathing exercises control and make the 'Mind' stable, the meeting point for good thoughts and good deeds, a task equally substance and spiritual. Spirituality is the simplicity of thought and deed. Every action

counts, since every deed has a ripple effect here on earth, and all over the cosmos. A spiritual person is connected to ground realities, right knowledge and the knack to know how the mind evolves. Spirituality is not bound by any dogmatic set of guidelines. It uses freewill to make the right choice for spiritual gains. It is a continuous process to understand, how consciousness works, and how it influences human thinking.

Whatever we do will come back to us, life takes a full circle. Good deeds earn praise, bad deeds insult. Sometimes it seems, we will get away with bad deeds, but we pay for it, in a way no one can perceive or knows how. The world throws back to us, what we give to the world, so we should be careful about our deeds. Good deeds bring happiness, yet there is no formula to create happiness. A technique, which makes one happy, may not give the same happiness to others. The intensity of happiness tends to change from time to time, and from one individual to another individual. Therefore, happiness can be summed up, like an attitude or a state of mind.

Gods don't dictate how a spiritual life is to be led. Each individual has his own take. When somebody's views are thrust upon others, repulsion is an obvious conclusion. Cosmic mysteries are never revealed fully. As a result, spirituality will continue to stay, as long cosmic mysteries are revealed, in bits and pieces. Revelation of mystery is an unending process. When mystery is decoded, it ends up becoming more and more mysterious. There is more mystery in the infinite space that can be ever known. A cosmic mystery is hard to decipher. No one can ever know the impenetrable reality, but those who follow 'Spirituality' are able to demystify the mystery that surrounds the world and the universe, little by little, maybe not the whole cosmic conundrum. Who knows?

People have the knack to determine truth and falsehood and develop their own way of life, which is centered on their need and interest. Spirituality packs people with natural principles, and rejects the supernatural, and relies on reason, freedom of thought, humanism and universalism. We are free to think, free to express our thoughts and free to practice our own ideology. Free to visualize and free to scrutinize, free to dream and free

to hope, free to judge and free to decide. Spirituality is the joy of being free when unhooked to religion.

There is no religion in the world that deserves praise. Why should one believe false religious precepts? Why should one wait for the God of religion to do justice? Why shouldn't one halt the church, temple or mosque going habit of the people? Even if, the Gods of religion appear before people, they are likely to disagree with people's attitude and their ideas. The God of religion is not the source of good, nor is God himself good. God is nature, the world is an outcome of nature, and whole cosmos is a natural place. The Gods of all religions is an imaginary narrative.

Only through reason knowledge is gained. Faith in God, miracle and magic, divine revelation, holy healing and altered states of insight, stimulated through hallucinating drugs are of no use, to lead a happy life. It is baffling that intuition, gut feelings, hunches, the sixth sense, the occult, visions, flashes of inspiration, and emotions, though not suitable for right knowledge, continue to be a source of curiosity of intelligent minds, even today, who brood to find new ways to look at the world weirdly, even as the world is normal and natural.

Spirituality knows the continuation of ethical impasse and the call for moral declaration. It is concerned with the attitude of those in love with natural life. There are no prefabricated solutions, to manmade problems of a materialistic life. One should enjoy the open journey, and the freedom of discovery it entails. There is no evidence of a separate soul, so the promise of a supposed 'Life after Death' is totally fictitious.

Spirituality defends the right of the people, to choose their own way, to speak, to think, and to write freely, to agree or disagree, to accept or oppose, to live their life, according to their own likes, ushering a new era of understanding, where each person has the right to choose his own belief, and develop the sensibility to evolve into a person with a multi-dimensional outlook, beyond the realm of the reasonable.

Spirituality is not a public expression but a personal revelation. It gets inspiration from the heart. The center of all thoughts is the mind, and the center of all emotions is the heart. Both

are symbolically addressed and are not the organ of the body. The center of the mind is not the physical brain and the center of emotions is not the physical heart. They are subtle centers of the body. Even soul is not a separate entity. It is a name given to the mind. When all these subtle centers dissolve in consciousness, nothing is left, except a puff of breath, a state of being alive.

Change is a part of life. The meaning of life keeps on changing. One can be a materialist at one moment, and turn into a spiritualist another moment. The life of a person is connected with thoughts, it lasts as long as one thought lasts, and ends the moment that thought comes to an end. Only moments of pragmatism bring a paradigm shift in the way one thinks, to make him a good person and a good citizen of the world, regaining the harmony, and the rhythm of natural life, just as there is hardly any chaos in the composure of the cosmos.

Practicing false religious beliefs must be stopped. Religion and nationalism have been the cause of conflicts and cruelty in the world. Religion has outlived its utility, and the nation's fragmented boundaries are collapsing in the age of globalization. Spirituality separates the good from the bad. Religion with its fictional, flimsy, frivolous and fictitious outlook does not appeal to a reasonable man. Spirituality is the thread, which binds all faiths in oneness of human race. If, practical theology could become spiritual knowledge, then can it be applied to raise inner the understanding, and grasp the reality of the outer world?

Material value is wealth and possessions. Moral value is good conduct and righteousness. Cultural value is art and architecture. Religious value is God and Soul. Spiritual value is humanism and realism. Values are the goals of life. The mind is the source of all values, out of all ideological models, only spirituality exhibits a natural trait, rest all are manmade suppositions. Spiritual values are human values, moral values are social values, so both are essential, rest all is superfluous features of our society.

There is a presence of power that supersedes everything that exists. This is the power of natural cosmic forces. Initially, we understood the objects of nature symbolically, when we learned to communicate with signs and sounds with each other. Later,

when book writing started, the authors of religions created the concept of God and Holy books. Why mankind took the business of religion so seriously for more than three thousand years? The future generation will wonder and laugh on mans monumental stupidity. Currently, the God of religion looks like a comic character. Spirituality does not perceive the existence of God created by religions, but acknowledges the existence of nature as God. The philosophy of Satyadharma is to make the life of human beings natural.

Suppositions are sermonized to strengthen the sacred scriptures. Lots of books are written to inculcate religious beliefs. Stuffing the mind of people with religious conjecture has taken its toll, now people have moved away from reality. The reason why people are mentally retarded is that evil intentions of fanatics have spread like wildfire. This religious misadventure will fail sooner or later. Whatever religions may try, pushing spirituality back to the wall is not easy, any longer. Spiritual seekers are coming on the forefront, now no one can stop them.

No theory can ever capture the free spirit of Satyadharma. It goes beyond books, talks, and knowledge. Spirituality encompasses the invisible energizing force, which is hidden within a person by the veil of his ego, by the cloud of his thoughts, and blinded by his burning passions and his strong desires. One can directly experience. To know and listen, reflect and question various options to reach right understanding consciously. Be cerebral and cultivate, sharp spotlight on impartiality, and swap mundane activities with virtuous ideas, by one's own self-effort. Whether one believes in this religion or that religion, everyone looks for happiness in their life.

Satyadharma is the expertise to experience being alive, and not to fritter away time, from the small span of life, by living a life full of lies, false beliefs and abstract assumptions. Based on principles of practical life, spirituality is not a study of academicians or philosophers, but the study of mind. Satyadharma defines disclosure of spiritual truths, and intense spiritual experience is spontaneous, and is not attained by rituals, prayers or penances. One simply needs to experiment, and test spirituality, in the laboratory of his own body and mind, to find the truth.

Religious experiences are disgusting, as they are mired with superstition and irrationality. The spiritual quest is aimed to discover the deepest truth, and to know the cause behind the reality of life. So, religions must adjust with Satyadharma for the sake of universal harmony, and return back to its spiritual core. Academicians should make religions a part of the curriculum, and teach the subject of all religions, not as theology but as philosophy, to all school going children, irrespective of the religion they follow. Familiarity with all religions will bring a sense of tolerance and appreciation for each other. When people across the world, have no reservations in eating food and hearing music from all parts of the world and don't ask which language or culture the food and music belongs to, then why can't people read the Holy books of all religions in the same manner?

A spiritual person is one who is curious about truth. He investigates the truth and follows truth. Spirituality is a unifying faith common to all. It is the choice of the prudent. Truth is not realized through books or lectures or intellectual efforts. Truth is experienced, it dawns upon the seeker of truth in silent contemplation, and is transmitted through silence, and then all doubts are cleared. This ultimate insight is beyond the reach of mind and speech. The knowledge to reach truth after all is the highest aim of man.

Sex has no place in spiritual practices. Sex is for procreation or reproduction of species. Human beings have no mating season, so they indulge in sex anytime anywhere. Art, literature, media, and movies use sex to seduce the minds of the people, and project sex as a perennial source of pleasure. Since sex sells, even old people are not spared. They are encouraged to be sexually active. Worst, some cults propagate sex leads to superconsciousness. One sex guru boasted that he slept with more women than Casanova did. All this is foolish, a creation of a sick mind. Such ideas are meant to arouse sex in mind of people, to lust for pleasure and not for spiritual gains.

As a spiritual seeker, one needs to uplift himself by abstaining from seductive self-indulgence to introspective self-restraint. Semen and sexual energies, when not consumed and conserved, can be sublimated into spiritual energy. Raising sexual energies

to a higher spiritual level is acceptable in spiritual practices, but indulging in natural or unnatural sexual orgies to attain super consciousness is a perverted idea. Associating sex with spiritual ascend is totally misplaced and the most foolish concept created by spiritual sects in India. Sex energy flows outwardly, and spiritual energy inwardly, so sex and spirituality are poles apart.

Spiritual life begins with a conviction that truth is the aim of all existence. Truth is one, unchangeable and eternal. Those who do not seek the truth, fail to see the purpose of life. Heart of reality is in good deeds, in compassion, in loving humanity, in selfless service to mankind, in the bond of brotherhood, and in the oneness of the human race and one world. Salvation is a stage of expansion. When a person becomes pragmatic and virtuous, he acquires spiritual maturity, and grasps the perfection, balance, and symmetry in everything. The highest level of spirituality is to make the world a peaceful place, where compassion, love, and justice exist.

No religion can save humanity. Religions have failed to discard fanaticism, and develop a rational scientific temper. Spiritual advancement in terms of thought, word and deed is a step in the right direction. This is possible without seeking external help. When religious fanaticism is taking a turn for the worst, it is necessary to gain freedom from the grip of religions.

The human mind is a big brainteaser. Have humans evolved from apes or they are born as spiritual beings? People have different opinions. Some say human beings are shrewd, self-serving animals, driven by their instincts. Others believe they are thinking and speaking creatures. Some argue that they are social animals, seeking happiness, and striving for freedom, harmony and happiness, and longing to become something else. The fact is that man is what his mind is. The mind is the decisive factor in human life. The mind is the river of flowing thoughts. Rationality is the anchor so being mentally balanced one can reach the other side of the shore.

Instinctive behavior is the ability to stay safe and alive in the constant struggle for survival, where only greed and selfishness matters, rather than anything cerebral. Animal instincts are focused to reproduce and regulate. Human civilization is based

on material and technological growth. Consequently, people have what they want, and have more than what they need to have. Still, people are not satisfied with these creature-centric-comforts. Spirituality can transform people, from lower animal instincts to a higher spiritual being.

Religionists believe religions are the crystallization of collective consciousness of holy beings, so it cannot be wrong or worthless. So one fails to understand why fanaticism is fanned by safe-keepers of religion? Isn't it all about power, politics, and manipulation of masses? Can we say such a religion is right and helpful? Religious beliefs try to validate falsehood because people need to be persuaded that everything in religion is right. After all, religious beliefs are not reality, but an invented narrative.

Spirituality is the biggest threat to religions. So the word spirituality and religion is used interchangeably. It is a ploy of religions to distort the essence of spirituality. Spirituality stands out alone. Spirituality is not an organized belief system like religions are. If people know about the subtle and fine distinction of spirituality in the right manner, no one would follow religions at all. Organized religions are governed by the rigid authority of the priest, mullah and pundit, while spirituality is a personal belief system, managed by an individual for himself, exclusively.

Life is full of sorrows. When things go wrong, people pray to God, to set them right. Spirituality does not rely on prayers or any external assistance. It simply makes a person aware of the ups and downs in life and instills the courage to believe in, what he does. If he tries to do something, he doesn't believe in, he will lose his balance and the energy to carry on. Those who go through pain and suffering in life, by and large, emerge stronger. Life is a tug of war between sorrow and happiness. Ironically, happiness follows sorrow, and sorrow follows happiness.

Spirituality is often spoken errantly. So, people want to know the real meaning of spirituality. Is naming spirituality important to clarify its characteristics? The author has named spirituality as 'Satyadharma', to define and disclose that Satyadharma is different from religions. By keeping away from clumsy drafting, and relying on a sane critique, the author will try, to conceptual-

ize the meaning of spirituality, for readers to accept reality and reject falsehood.

Some moderate Muslim and considerate Christian fear that using Sanskrit term like 'Satyadharma' imply a tilt towards Hinduism. This is certainly not the intention of the author. Faith followers are free to replace Sanskrit words with appropriate Arabic or English words they deem fit to use. However, the underlying 'Message' of the author is to create awareness among the people world over, that spirituality is better than religions. That's all, nothing more, and to clarify further, let it be known that the author is not in favor of any religion at all.

Consciousness intrigues the spiritual seeker. When things come in contact with senses, feelings are produced. Feelings create thoughts, thoughts a mindset, topped by intellect and ego. But away from the jumping mind is the stillness of consciousness, our true nature. The mind is not consciousness. Mind hides consciousness, difficult to discern its location. Mind exists, either in the past or future, but consciousness remains in the present, the everlasting eternal presence of 'Now'. Consciousness is neither the body nor the mind nor a separate entity. It is the original portion, the vital essence, the life force, or the breath, which pervades the whole universe.

Satyadharma expounds spirituality in rational terms. It does not rely on the authority of a preceptor. Truth is the last word. No master or messiah can claim it. No religion has a hold on it. Truth belongs to one and all. Truth is universal, its application and technique are full of life. We need to look from the stand of spirituality, to make an independent assessment of truth, without relying on religions, gurus or swamis or priest, mullah and pundit.

Materialism splurges wealth, raising greed and wanting more and more. There is something amiss in life. This something is grasped by spirituality, and not by scientific scrutiny. It is the content and consciousness, objective and subjective. The world exists in the eyes of the viewer. One world is viewed differently by different living beings. The idea of a world is the creation of the human mind; otherwise, the world is nothing, just a lump of clay, a speck of dust drifting aimlessly in endless space, accord-

ing to cosmic forces. Who knows? Do we know?

Do we have individuality? Is our individuality mortal or immortal? As usual, our upbringing is an outcome of a learning procedure, tutored by parents and teachers, and is not developed by self-learning. All knowledge acquired by us belongs to others. We exist in imagination, in context of others imagined ideas. In relative terms our individuality, for social interactive needs does exist, for the sake of expediency, but in absolute terms we have no individuality and no existence. In the endless immensity of space, we all are the part of formlessness, where the identification of bodily living beings and non-living objects in the 'Space-Time' quantum are dissolved.

Can different religions and divergent beliefs, reconcile their differences now, in spite of former rivalry? Human mindset is becoming liberal, it's a better time to love and live together in camaraderie, by forgetting and forgiving what had happened in past. The age of human fellowship is becoming a reality. The 21st century will be the testing time for religions. All creeds, cultural, racial and national prejudices will be abandoned by the whole world soon. All nations will become one home, and mankind one family, and live together in peace and prosperity, under the rule of one Global Government, a union of all nations. This is not a prophecy, but a sign of the coming events.

In an economically developed and educated world, man no longer struggles to survive. But his physical evolution is in danger of diminishing by the rampant use of technology; nevertheless, the human mind is geared to go forward. What is likely to happen in future is the development of 'Super Consciousnesses' through spirituality. The inner transformation of mind will translate into outer changes. So, each individual should try to uplift him spiritually, and live in accordance with the laws of nature, to evolve human race to the next higher level of evolution.

When people are neither spiritual nor rational, then ignorance spreads all over the world, giving birth to sects, false gurus, and superstitions, springing up speedily, to push innocent people, in the abyss of darkness. If a genuine reformist movement to spread spirituality arrives on the world stage, which comes but rarely, people must welcome it, even if many people

are not ready to accept it, at least they should debate to make it acceptable to the people. Change is after all inevitable, and to ignore change is not right.

Satyadharma represents spiritual values, and spirituality is the soul of all religions. Yet religions have a spiritual-less approach. So, there is no equation between a spiritual seeker and a faith-follower. Spirituality depends on personal experience, not on sermons given by others. Spirituality brings a harmonious balance between body and mind. Life has too many unanswered questions, and the need to know, as much as one can, this motivates us to learn more and more, what the holy books cannot teach. Faith in oneself is the best way to deal with this baffling issue, while self-reliance gives a sense of practical expectation, rather than expecting miracles to happen, through prayers or by visiting places of worship, or by chanting meaningless words.

How long will fanatics bleed humanity? How long faith followers will live with ancient fables, superstitions, blind beliefs, wage religious wars, and terrorist acts, in the horrible Dark Age of ignorance? Aren't we obstructing the emergence of an enlightened age? By now a new life is stirring and simmering within us, feel the impulse, the inclination, and find out its intent. It is time to spread 'Love and Fellowship', treat all human beings as 'One', and render 'Selfless Service' to humanity, which is the foremost aim of spirituality.

The outward manifestation of spirituality, unfolds a collective sense of belonging of people, in an interconnected world, as a unified single entity, where universal brotherhood, love, compassion and peace, influence the lifestyle of people, and all bookish knowledge becomes meaningless. People, who can interpret world trends, admit that worldwide brotherhood and the idea of one world are happening. Through spiritual awakening, the earth will emerge as one world without nations, and spirituality will be, the global faith in a religionless world.

Today, knowledge and technology converge collectively. Why religions diverge humanity. When common good for mankind is universal welfare, righteous conduct, truth, and non-violence, then why do we need so many religions, which divide the world? Spirituality is a self-breakthrough to discover the 'Self'. Self-

discovery is the result of inquiry and investigation into the conditions of human life on earth and understanding of the working of human instincts and dispositions. The knowledge of self is sought by each one, by his self-effort.

Thoughts and feelings keep the 'Mind' informed. The center of the mind is thoughts. Rationality nurtures the 'Conscience'. The mind-body combo is in the hold of 'Consciousness'. The nucleus of the ego is identity. The core of intellect is reason. Levelheadedness is the voice of conscience. All bodily configurations work under the presence of consciousness, and consciousness is a spiritual substance. It is subtle, imperceptible, indivisible and imperishable. It dwells in the cavity of a symbolic heart, the central point of all emotions, and not in the heart, an organ of the human body.

Consciousness presides over all activities of body and mind. Being in a state of consciousness is a spiritual experience, where eternal harmony is attained. Spirituality strengthens good karma, all else is sweat and toil. Everything in cosmos is transient and perishable. But, one unborn original element dominates entire activities happening in space, and that is 'Cosmic Consciousness', the cause of existence, all else is superimposed. To know the eternal is to know everything, as well as the cosmic portion that lies within us, experienced as a 'Witness' watching the drama of life and death, unperturbed.

Who am I? In reality, there is no 'Who'. It is an outcome of a thinking mind. Nature has programmed the human body with natural survival instincts. These innate human impulses are the starting point, from where the mind works. This is the source of all thoughts. Rest all is an extension of this basic trait.

Living is dying. Consequently, there is no escape from suffering. Sorrow is the reward of life. The impermanence of life and everything around us is tackled, best by developing a sense of renunciation. With detachment one is free, with attachment one becomes a captive. Life from a spiritual point of view unfolds, a totally different perceptive, it strengthens, the deep notion of inner trust, and reveals true meaning of actual and authentic life, before us.

Do not resist, let events happen, be open, look at every sa-

cred opportunity at hand, and broaden the time frame to scan what has brought religion to this point, and what is the effect of religions on the future of mankind. Are religions guilty of corrupting the minds of the people with false knowledge? To say that the situation today is no longer congenial for religions to thrive would not be an exaggeration, at all. However, by exercising judicious discernment, people must decide, what should be the fate of religions, in the current perspective.

How is spiritual outlook developed? Spirituality is self-defined by seeker himself, for internal self-reformation. The first step starts, when a seeker decides to identify, what spirituality means to him, and not what spirituality means to others. Spirituality begins by 'Knowing Thyself'. On this roller coaster ride, seeker learns, de-learns and relearns. So, to embark on a spiritual journey, ask questions and answer them, define and understand spirituality, and what improvement it brings in personal life, and how it helps to change our mindset. Find answers from the inner verbal state and flow with it, to merge with cosmic consciousness, a non-verbal essence, and then suddenly everything within drops like a dried leaf. Now, there is nothing more to know or become but to 'Be' and feel alive.

A religionless world is a must for a united and amicable existence of the human race. The future world citizen will not be a Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh or a Parsee. He will be a spiritual seeker and not a follower of religions. Spirituality is all about becoming conscious of what we truly are. Spiritual intelligence makes a person contented. Self-realization is to know body-mind and its balancing act. It is our mind that makes us what we are and senses how we feel. A spiritual person manages to remain calm even in crisis and chaos. It is a search for betterment. As we evolve spiritually, we reach an understanding that we have within us, what we seek out from others, now we are free to be ourselves, and contain the world, instead of the world containing us.

Understanding ourselves and the world around us depends on the level of our personal perception, which at random, oscillates at various evolving stages, from childhood, youth, old age to death, concurrent to changing states of mind, at variable

levels of understanding. Human intellectual capacity is subject to limitations. It is spirituality that takes a person beyond human limitations. Spirituality does not bind itself to any single variety. It evolves from lesser to greater perceptive. It is elementary, practical and easily tested and proved. It dwells in a place where men can think truthfully and live righteously. It has no priest, no holy city, and no holy book, before which men must kneel. Spirituality is easily accessible and open-minded, the creed of one's own conviction.

Satyadharma is based on a man's knowledge of the nature of things and its attributes, leading to provable truths, which help the spiritual seeker to distinguish the essential from the accidental, the timeless from the transient, religions from spirituality, the metaphysical theories from the statement of facts, and man-made beliefs from the eternal truth. Satyadharma is the creedless creed of the universal truth.

Satyadharma is a truth-seeking endeavor, it facilitates an individual, and it does not enable the masses, like religions do, to value honestly and honorably the eternal 'Law of Harmony', which pervades the whole universe, and dispels the illusions created by the mind. Truth alone can conquer the evils of an erroneous evaluation of the universe made by religions. Truth is not arbitrary nor an issue of opinion. Truth can be investigated and verified.

Satyadharma does not promise miracles or magical healing or mystical experiences or a safe haven under the protection of a supernatural being. There is no ritual, no prayer, nor a soul to be saved. All places are temples. It believes in nurturing an individual and not the masses. It is individual-centric and not crowd-centric. It provides a way to attain enlightenment here on earth, and not by visiting haven up there in the sky.

Will our day to day life become better by knowing the depth and loftiness of space? Or by knowing who the creator of planet earth and the human race is? Day after day, a common man attends, to his everyday needs, leaving behind the blind spots, for erudite academicians to scan and study. Spiritual thoughts are concerned with one's life and living. The vast cosmos is impregnated with one law, the law of life, so is the law of life im-

pregnated with one law, the law of living. Therefore, spirituality or Satyadharma is not an article of faith or a divine revelation but a practical way, ascertained by self-study, and verified by personal experience.

Religions indoctrinate dependence on unknown factors, by rendering psychological protection to faith-followers. Religions have invented a God that can help people shape their destinies, only if, they believe in God, and praise him constantly through prayers. Religions have blindfolded people, who aspire for peace and happiness, shelter and support, faith and hope. People should cast away the hopeless, helpless and reckless ways of religions, and seek light elsewhere, giving Satyadharma or spirituality a chance to shine.

Satyadharma is the study of man by man. It leads to the highest knowledge of everything. Knowledge is massive and complex and thus needs to be comprehended from as many points of view as much as possible. The aim of this self-philosophical inquiry is, to comprehend reality, as it is. There is no subject more important than spirituality since it involves the most important questions, to which different religions give different answers.

Each person is a unique person. His ability to adapt to new conditions, and control his surroundings, is also well within his personal ability. No other living being, possess the quality of rational thinking as man does, so no man or woman should depend on, any supernatural being to assist them. A lion does not pray to disable his prey. The man has the potential to develop himself. 'Being' natural and not 'Becoming' artificial is a state of mind. If cosmic mysteries baffle us so does the human mind, both are entrenched in the physical world, and has nothing to do, with a world in the sky, invented by the authors of religions.

Satyadharma is based on reality, reason and personal experience. It is a universal remedy for distressed minds. Through spirituality seeker cultivates qualities, like empathy, love, freedom, peace, compassion, striving for justice, longing for beauty, idealism, and creativity. What does being a 'Satyadharmic' means? It means being caring and a civilized human being, who lives beyond the scope of the manmade world, in a spiritually conscious state.

Matter and energy are the two essential parts of the universe. The elements of living entities and non-living things never vanish from the universe, even if, the planet on which they exist is destroyed completely. Lifeforce and elements, combine in different shapes, and resurface in different areas of the cosmos. The cycle of appearance and disappearance of objects is a never-ending ongoing process. The creation of living beings and non-living things is witnessed on a material plane, and its disappearance into the energy plane is not visible. But the law of recycling of elements is a demonstrable reality.

The deeds of a spiritual person are not only beautiful but his appearance to acquires a beautiful aura. Spirituality is a delicate bond one establishes himself with his inner-self, and sees all as one. It is a sense of who one really is and his values and his self-worth. Problems are a part of life. Spirituality gives a better understanding to handle them. Life can be very complex. Dealing with obstacles head-on and sensibly is a simple way to overcome them. One should look at the practical side of life, and not be at risk of being impractical.

People have posed spiritual questions from time immemorial and are still struggling to find the answers. A majority of people have asked these questions, at some stage of their life, out of curiosity or during adversity, but came out with half-baked religious replies full of lies. We live in a scientific age and use technology in our daily life, then why hesitate to pursue spirituality in a scientific manner. Religions down the ages are followed blindly. It got mixed up, and lost in false beliefs, superstitions, dogmas, and rituals. Spirituality is far-away from such falsifications.

When we respect ourselves we respect life. Then life is nourished with love and concern, and it grows to respect all living beings automatically, without any human intervention of disrespect. Therefore, each person should live his life on his own terms. No one should replicate the lifestyle of other people. Therefore, each one of us, should pave his own path of life, and accomplish his own preferred goal, arising from his own thoughts and his own heart to accomplish. This is a natural spiritual human urge to strive and thrive, so follow this course

of action.

In the stream of consciousness, thoughts flow like a river gushing, from its known coastline, to the coast of the unknown. The fear of the unknown is a psychological blockage, which prevents us from drifting further, halting the flow of thoughts to stagnate. Those who let the river of thoughts surge ahead, reach the shore of eternity, and no one can tell where the influence of eternity ends. So, let us keep afloat, and flow in the river of thoughts. Even elephants can float on water and cross rivers. It is the fear of man that drowns him. Peel the fear from the mind.

Religious leaders, who turn religion into a militant force, lose sight of their religion. But those who gain spiritual strength by putting personal efforts are at no risk from the rhetoric of a rabble-rousing priest, mullah or a pundit or from any religion, which rent a mob, or regard religious leaders as holy men, or believe anything a religious leader says and follow them blindly. Spirituality has no faith in the nonsensical religious beliefs and its implication and impact on blind faith followers.

Chapter 7

Origin of Satya Dharma

An illusionary world entices the natural world. When we know our inner world, the discord disappears. Then we are on familiar terms and in harmony with the inner and the outer world, due to the all-inclusive manifestation of our spiritual nature. The essence of spirituality lies in the real perception of things grasped through self-realization, attaining spiritual knowledge, the synonym of eventual reality. No amount of good deeds, no amount of scriptural knowledge, no amount of prayers, or twirling the beads of a rosary, and recitation of hymns, or no amount of acts of charity, rites, and rituals can help a person see God. Reality is unfolded and bestowed upon the seeker of truth only by self-study, and not by any external support system.

Truth seeker's logic is acceptable if he says "I have experienced it myself". This statement reveals the strength of a spiritual mind that echoes the spirit of investigation, where all knowledge is verified before acceptance because self-confirmation is self-awareness. It is the inner light that dispels our ignorance. It is the inner investigation that leads to awareness and wisdom. Spirituality awakens the mind, and religion as blind faith enslaves the mind.

A person with the intelligence of what is right and what is wrong is always in a dilemma to appreciate matters based on faith alone and nothing else. Understanding the article of faith in cerebral terms is the call for the modern man to address. Waging tail and following like a pug is not a quality of a man. In today's world, people have a moral and spiritual urge but lack time, patience and a vision to pursue it. Technology provides us with a sea of information and vast reach and range of data, instantaneously surfed on a touch screen. But there is no technology to assist a spiritual experience, which is possible only through personal efforts and not otherwise.

Living in harmony with nature is to be spiritual. Natural resources, flora and fauna, living beings and non-living beings, earth and the universe are all interdependent. There is a har-

monious cosmic order in the universe. When this balance is disturbed, natural calamities occur.

We all should work to establish a new age faith, one that cuts across the barriers of culture, community, and creed. Let us all contribute our mite to develop spiritualism and humanism, as the new age faith named as Satyadharma to promote peace and brotherhood in the world.

When values of Satyadharma are fully integrated into community development activities, the ideas, the insight and its practical measures that would materialize, will promote self-reliance and human dignity. Satyadharma is founded upon such ideals and shared beliefs, which welds society and nations together as one entity. Knowledge is both spiritual and material in nature. The methodologies of science and the insight of spirituality, when they work together, in a synergistic manner, provide a harmonious society.

The emptiness within makes us think something is missing. Let us fill this space with spirituality, as spirituality grows from here. When we look within, we realize what human nature is, and how it functions. Why we are, the way we are, and how should we, come to terms with it. We gain knowledge to discriminate what is right and what is wrong, and to accept that we are responsible for our life, no one else is, or can ever be. We make out why and how, we are programmed to feel the way we do, so to improve we can work within, to transform ourselves.

The world is coming closer, therefore, a collective public effort, backed by the State is needed, to weed out false religious beliefs, and establish universal spiritual standards. The transformation should start first from nations, the defenders of human rights, and then enter the next level the social order, as a catalyst to change human values, which end at the individual level, to fulfill spiritual needs, and protect the spiritual rights of each citizen.

Satyadharma is also a metaphysical entity, going beyond the run-of-the-mill religiosity and rituals. It is a category of commitment to positive time-tested norms, which have become a part of human life. There are certain beliefs and realities, which have remained constant, since time immemorial. People should live

up to those norms.

Spirituality is a longing to grow up, to break away from the cycle of life and death. Our inborn choice is freedom and not fetters. Yet we have become a prisoner by our own ignorance. People are irrational and selfish and difficult to deal with. They have physical passions and spiritual aspirations. Spirituality is a personal faith and does not propagate any system of dogmatic beliefs. It's a lofty human feeling of déjà vu, the celestial memory of cosmic consciousness. In spirituality, there is no theist or an atheist. All human beings are spiritual beings. Spirituality helps us to cope with life, and gives strength to deal with, the trials and tribulations, life metes out on us.

Satyadharmiks are followers of Satyadharma. They never discuss metaphysical matters like God or the soul. They simply don't believe in it, unless it becomes their own personal experience to reflect upon. Then why should one go by the command of Holy Books? Books can go wrong, trigger controversy, and claim to unravel the whole cosmic mystery, in vain. Reality is one and religions are many. Religions are responsible for distorting reality and creating differences and divisions. Even the sky has no divisions, east or west, north or south. These are manmade imaginary directions classified by splitting the sky, which appears as a canopy that covers the earth.

Spirituality is as old as human beings are. Religions appeared much later, with the advent of avatars, prophets, messengers of God, and the son of God. Where was God before the inception of religions? No one knew then, and no one knows now where God is. There were no religious wars before religions were launched. Sadly, with its arrival, religions have killed more people than all epidemics and natural calamities, summed up, would have caused deaths, in the past three thousand years. Nature has been more compassionate than the believers of God. Hitler's slaughtering of Jews or Mao's Cultural Revolution can be compared to religious carnage, or else none can match its brutal intensity and its continuity. The fundamentals of spirituality are clear (1) God is nature, (2) the article of faith is nature (3) the laws of nature is the ultimate truth and (4) living a natural life is salvation.

Fostering unity in diversity and accommodating multifaceted reality as one, are the lofty principles of the modern age civilization. Both are effective tools to resolve the problems of the world. Religions do not promote one human race and one world. Religions make people sectarian and suppressive. Too many religions have divided the social order and corrupted the mind of the people with false beliefs. Humanity needs spirituality. While, elders of society and intellectuals must ensure that, no one is conditioned or programmed by forcing an ideology, be it religions, be it spirituality, or Satyadharma, without consent.

Satyadharma can flourish only where there is freedom of thought, the well being of the people, and economic prosperity. It is in the midst of material harmony, people grasp the evolutionary understanding, that there is something beyond the manmade world too. Satyadharma is about discovering who we are, and the search to know facts about our existence and extinction. Spirituality is the state of being connected well with nature and being abundantly aware of what is happening within us, and around us, alive with full consciousness.

We are born in a religion. Our name, dress, and lifestyle display the identity of our religion. We are raised in a religion, which is thrust on us. We are tied to the post of religion from birth to death, like the frog in the well. Spirituality is not passed on from parent to child. It is a part of our genes. Spirituality is inborn. When it develops, it depends on the trajectory of one's life. It is common to turn spiritual, in the later stages of life.

Our animal nature thrives on ignorance. Spiritual nature comes to forefront in the splendor of consciousness. The character decides the standing of a person in society, but we do too little to correct our inner personality. We lack the patience and while away our time in vanities. This is a deplorable laxity on our part. Failure and success is our creation. To amass wealth and satiate carnal desire is the raw side of a human being. Spirituality is the refined side of a human being, meant for sharp and spirited people, who realize that life is full of limitations. In spiritual life, one can experience the elation of eternity and ecstasy.

Nature has created man. There are a basic decency and dignity in a human being. Rooted in spirituality man respects

goodness and ethical values, and considers all people as one human race, even if, each person is endowed with different natural qualities. This is certainly not an expression of religious belief. We know a right thing is done in the right way, we respect the formation of a global society, promote cooperation and collaboration among people. Harmonious coexistence is the foundation of a religionless world. Satyadharma is intended for entire humanity, as it espouses 'Oneness' of the human race as 'One Family' and the world of nations as 'One Home'.

Human beings are parasites on earth and are still capable of protecting the world from any environmental harm. Ecological balance is maintained together by living beings and non-living things. Therefore, it is important for us to save earth from harm. We all should be indebted to this cosmic miracle that nurtures and sustains life on earth, and from where universal vibrations merge with human consciousness. Earth is the temple of nature. We must respect and hold it in the highest regard, and protect it zealously as well.

Spirituality or Satyadharma is a progressive philosophy. The four fundamental attributes of Satyadharma are geared to support equality, universal brotherhood, and encourage people to walk on the path of righteousness, and cultivate scientific temper. It rejects anything that contravenes the laws of nature. One may not stick to any religious reliance, and still be compassionate, and promote human values, without any religious base camp.

Is spirituality a religion? In a sense, we can say it is, and in a sense, we can say it is not. It is not a religion in the sense it is commonly understood like it has no God to worship, no rituals to observe, no heaven or hell for the dead, no soul as an ethereal being, whose immortality is a matter of intense concern. But, it is a religion in a sense, it considers nature as God and is human-centric. It respects nature in the form of worship. It observes the laws of nature as rituals. It believes in the immortality of deeds, even though a person dies, and last but not the least, it considers good karma as heaven, and bad karma as hell, and is totally free from all dogmatic nuisance.

People are bogged down by intellectual logjam, by the confu-

sion created by irrational religious ideas, beliefs, and doctrines. Religions have no doubt killed, the spirit of free inquiry, to fashion falsehood. It is time to put religions to test. Spirituality is a personal experience. It accepts the inferential way of thinking, as the source of knowledge and rejects recourse to authority, and treats divine disclosures as hollow. Spirituality is reasoning and not revelations. Men should think and ponder individually, and not depend on anyone else, except on himself.

The lessons on spirituality begin from facts as they are, and not from suppositions and beliefs religions edify. Spirituality recognizes the road to rectitude and reality. Spiritual seeker has no faith in dead scriptures. They rely on the living facts of life, manifesting itself inwardly, as an inner feeling that comes naturally, to give an outer expression. Spirituality needs no book; it leads to experience truth because the book on truth is unwritten. Spirituality struggles to reveal the true nature of things to the seeker, and does not opt to the theologian's skill to transform the absurd to appear sensible by false expectations and blind faith.

Spirituality makes no distinction between the exoteric and the esoteric doctrines. It does not endorse virgin births or resurrection or to pacify angry Gods. It has nothing to do with religious theology or dreams and ecstasies or visions and trances or mental aberrations or the effects of hallucinatory drugs, considered as supernatural powers. Nor does it support people to withdraw into solitary places on the pretense of being in a divine state, and then instruct others as the word of God. The assertive authority of religion stems from the fear of being exposed and to prevent the faith-followers from questioning the validity of false religious beliefs and the Holy Books.

Doubts can obviously arise, whether what is being said as truth is right or wrong. Misgivings are not cleared by someone else. One has to grasp the truth himself. It is not for us to accept theories, which revolve around mysteries. They are suppositions and not reality, arising from a blind lane, to frisk and fumble faith-followers.

Spirituality or Satyadharma is a finding in the sense that it is the result of inquiry and investigation into the conditions of

human life on earth and understanding of the working of human instincts man is born with. The molding of instincts and dispositions, formed as a result false religious beliefs is working as a social determent. Reality must be sought by everyone through personal efforts, with utmost caution, reasonableness and watchfulness without being charmed by falsehood. Spirituality does not promise salvation it shows the way.

The existence of a soul as a separate entity is an idea. Mind and soul are not two units, but one reality. The false notion of 'Soul' is a common narrative in all religions. Mind projects an ego, and ego an identity, and consciousness life force. Consciousness is felt as a presence soaked in stillness, and forms the background, on which all the human activities take place. We should accept this truth and reject all other false concepts not verifiable. So, it's necessary for us, to differentiate manmade theories and universal laws, manmade events and natural phenomena, manmade religion and the natural spiritual fiber of human beings.

Spirituality and not religion had, and has a vital role to play, in the evolution of mankind. It has succeeded instilling morality, charity, compassion, and mercy. It extends universal goodwill, but is critical to sectarian concepts and the intolerance of religions, answerable for spreading social disorder in the world, through the fundamentalists and terrorism. People have by now matured, and will unquestionably recognize the significance of Satyadharma, the spiritual wisdom to bring a nobler faith, as a world religion of the 21st century, based on universal truths.

Spirituality dispels all illusions from the mind. It soothes the sorrows of life and eases the burden of those who cannot bear the load of life. Spiritual values give valor, self-sufficiency and hope to the weak, all obstructions are driven out, and righteousness is seen. Truth strengthens us to walk with confidence on the path of life, which makes our living better. So do not swerve, from the path of virtue, justice, and honesty.

Everything is ephemeral nothing will last forever. There are birth and growth, decay and death, there are unification and separation. Everywhere there is hurriedness, tension, and a restless chase to harp on happiness and contentment. There is a

constant fear from pain and the pang of death, and dreadfully difficult to douse the bonfire of burning desires. The world is constantly changing the shine and shadow, creating illusions of light and darkness. Even as time without end is endless, immortality is concealed by death and infinity by the finite.

The laws of nature determine the state of combinations and separations. Bodies pass away but deeds are not destroyed. They are transferred, reproducing thoughts, character, aspiration and deeds of the dead in others mind. Eternity has no beginning or end. Eternity is the truth. Truth is the immortal part of the mind. Establish truth in the mind, and then the eternal unfolds. Cleanse and purify the mind, there is no other way to reach the truth.

Religion is not spirituality. There is nothing spiritual about petty disputes and frivolous fights, over the cause of religions. People hold on to a religion, due to their sense of insecurity, and use religion as a crutch. The trouble starts when the personal agenda of religious leaders are promoted. There is nothing wrong with religions and the contributions of their founders. It is the pundit, mullah and the priests who have made religions bad.

CHAPTER 8

Why Satya Dharma

Religions are merely ten in number namely Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Yet, the magnitude of animosity religions have generated is unimaginable in terms of carnage, holy wars, terror campaigns, and being the biggest violators of world peace.

Preferences are often chosen after assessing different available alternatives at hand. But religion is thrust on a newborn at the time of birth. This is wrong. Why can't people have the freedom to decide a religion of their own choice? Fulfillment of spiritual needs is, after all, the birthright of the people, be it religions or spirituality. It is high time we addressed this issue together, which bears the brunt of vulgar violation of human rights.

Many people believe the religion in which they are born is the only religion in the world. They take no interest in other religions, and hardly know about their own inherited religion. Several people don't know and can't even read the language in which their Holy book is written. They simply rely on the word of mouth. Misreading is a blind approach to know religion, which takes for granted that other religions are simply wrong. People can never understand other religions, as long the cleric condemns other religions and praises his own religion. As a result, followers develop preconceived ideas, based on prejudice, and not on facts. People fail to inquire what other religions can tell them. Therefore, before accepting any religion, it is imperative to compare it with other religions.

Following organized religions is challenging. So, if someone decides to give up the religion he inherited at birth, then he must be prepared to accept that what he had believed, to be true, is actually false. With globalization, idiosyncratic ways of life are seen to wane, and people all over the world look very much the same. Religion was under fire from non-believers in the second half of the twentieth century, but today becoming a human is more important than being religious, so people want a

human-centric and not a God-centric religion anymore.

Scientific technology has bestowed comforts, relieved people from poverty, and mitigated physical pain, but the human mind sedated by religion still lacks the ability to adjust with science and technology. Thus, people continue to suffer from inward isolation and are split in twain. The transition people need to make their life happy and peaceful can happen through spirituality, which embraces the material and the spiritual world together in its fold.

Literacy has increased, now people can easily comprehend doctrines based on reason, as rationality can be verified at every stage and doesn't require beliefs to believe. Educated people feel cheated and are irritated when forced to follow a fixed family regulated religion blindly, even as 'Reason' has rendered manmade boundaries of caste, creed, color, country and culture as an empty shell.

The path of rationality appeals the educated, and at the same time, it doesn't mean that other paths are less inspiring and meaningless. Once pure spirituality is realized, then the spirit of all religions, is seen to sway, on the same single spiritual string. As religions have lost its appeal, so people are keen to follow the path of spirituality. The purpose of spirituality is to humanize man and hold the torch of reason in the alley of blind faiths.

The educated people want to believe only that, which their mind and intellect can comprehend with ease, without relying on blind faiths. Growth is marked with pain, and change belongs to calamity. Today, to twist transition in the testing time, people have to be in spiritual space, starting with humanism and rationalism to beat religion.

Tracking truth is an effort and end of existence and extinction. World originates for the truth to reveal to those who seek it. So, let people inquire and investigate, to affirm and abide by the truth. There are no different truths in the world. Truth is one, it is universal and eternal. Rationality has no place for truth, as reason serves the intention of both right and wrong equally well. In that case, we recognize that righteousness is the truth, and a true religion is perceived by truth alone that ends with 'Spirituality' the essence of one truth.

The organized system and the regulations of religion are against the human spirit, as it stifles human freedom and the expansion of human thought, and treats human beings as the lowest denominator, and compel them to follow something brainless, just because everyone else is following it. This is a stupid switchover with no substitute to swap. Spiritual attitude is deeply personal. It cannot be imposed or institutionalized. The human spirit evolves freely, in the privacy of its personal domain only.

Spirituality is the common cord that combines and connects the core of all creeds. Spirituality can lead to harmony and unity of religions. But to compel people to follow religions blindly is a transgression against the values of their conscience. Therefore, putting aside religions, to draw attention to spiritual regeneration, and humanitarian values is essential in the current digital age. Spirituality is not sensuality. It is a study of human spirit or mind. In fact, spirituality goes beyond the frontiers of science, because spirituality begins, where science ends.

Spiritual development happens through introspection and self-knowledge leads to self-reliance. Cultivating the art of self-knowledge shows the way to the freedom from falsehood, and to a state of self-realization. Those who are bereft of spiritual awareness need to develop curiosity and critical thinking, to find answers to their questions.

Spirituality is the realization of the human spirit as it is, and not the way we see it. Spirit is non-physical or invisible field of energy, which is an outcome of the physical or visible body, which contains the attribute of mind, thoughts, intellect, and consciousness. It stands for mentality, soul, spiritual constitution and personality of a human being. In the search of inner space, when one surrenders to the naturalness of his pure being, the connectivity and feeling the presence of a cosmic energy within, is surely a splendid spiritual experience.

Spiritual experiences make our way of thinking open-ended, liberal and flexible. Truth is revealed in naturalness. Truth cannot be envisioned, even if, we reinterpret old Holy Scriptures to make it look contemporary. No religion can claim a monopoly of truth. No man-made rule is permanent, only that which is

natural does not change. Problems created by religions can be cracked, only if we go beyond the scope of religions. We need to reconnect religion with spirituality. Had we relied on spirituality rather than religions, most of our problems would have been solved long time back. It took us 3000 years to know this blunder. However, it's never too late to fix it.

Spirituality is a quest to find answers to questions beyond the scope of human understanding. It is realizing, howsoever diverse people may be in terms of caste, creed, color, country and culture, the human spirit remains the same forever. It is in seeking the commonality of the inner self that bind human beings together, so that people get to know, the oneness of mankind. But, bigoted religions, still treat their followers, as a commodity, and brand the crowd in one package, without displaying an expiry date of its product.

A spiritual seeker does not live with any preconceived ideas. He is totally unbiased and prepared to examine any issue, with an open inquiring mind. He does not reject an issue, simply because the matter is in disagreement with his thoughts. He remains fair in his judgment. He uses his intellect and reasoning power and does not rely on the ideas of others. Falsehood misleads a spiritual seeker, he realizes the futility of his efforts, and helplessly continues to strive, in vain. When he doesn't expect anything to happen, then things start happening and the truth is revealed. Therefore, undisclosed are the ways in which divinity desires to express itself.

A person follows his own mind. From mind, he derives his character. The mind is the source of good and evil. Since mind-made is the life of all human beings, consequently it is the duty of every human being to purify his mind. Learning and de-learning is the mantra, to clear the confusion of the mind. Therefore, unload the baggage of worldly knowledge and man-made artificiality to become simple, innocent and natural, only a mind in a state of natural simplicity attains spiritual wisdom. Spirituality is being natural and normal, the way we are, and not the way we crave to project ourselves in the minds of the people.

What is a spiritual experience? Can we experience it in our day-to-day life or we have to wait for an extraordinary event to

unfold. People look for spiritual experience occurring in some unusual circumstances. They fail to see that everyone can have a spiritual experience, by living a natural and a simple life. As it is difficult to grasp the elusive mysteries of life, so it's the spiritual veracity that adds value to this vagueness. Even intuitive insight comes from spirituality and not from rational ideas. It is spiritual energy that sustains human life. Just as the fragrance of a flower is felt and cannot be described. The spiritual force that lies in deep recesses of human feelings is felt by a spiritual seeker who is totally awakened with full consciousness.

Spirituality has become a fad for those who want to escape from a material life filled with tension. To cater to them there are several shops selling spirituality, like yoga while you drive, prayer while you cook, spiritual spa, meditation in office, and mass at the mall. Is this spirituality or its vulgarized version? People spend time at their favorite joint because they love it. They love the swanky serenity of the super mall because it calms them. They love to spend their time to forget their loneliness by attending parties, speeding cars and reading holy books in the metro trains and at traffic jams. They call themselves spiritual. Imagine what it means to be spiritual really.

Spirituality signifies the endless possibilities for a wholesome development of human personality. Spirituality is an inborn natural part of every person's inner personality. It is a matter of bringing it out in the open. It keeps moral values factored and functional. It bestows humility and composure. If, in a tight spot it gives the strength to come out of it. Its main mantra is to take life the way it comes, and then see, how life becomes so wonderful for us. In today's world, everything is becoming unnatural. People need to be natural since they have no other choice.

Psychology and physiology are dealt, using scientific methods, but human spiritual needs are tackled by the most irresponsible and irrational redundant religions. Why religious authorities, prevent academics to separate spirituality from religion, and look at its ramifications rationally? The whole world is educated, so now spiritual part of human life cannot be ignored, anymore. Yet this important facet of a human trait is misread and played down. Knowing well that spirituality can stitch the

frayed fabric of morality spread to shelter a peaceful world.

Life is lived once, no one lives it twice. Only one chance is given to us to make the most before life fizzles out from the body. The span of human life is too little. People hanker after worldly attainments and make their life despondent and distressed. In this wild goose chase, running in the unfinished race, each person experiences an inner feeling of futility. Spirituality helps them to overcome this vainness into usefulness.

Spirituality connects human consciousness with the eternal and the infinite. Perception of the eternal awareness removes lack of knowledge. It does not state any new doctrine, except reveals the knowledge of the everlasting eternity. One and all can experience it if there is an urge to investigate. It is like donning a human beings natural persona, its quality and value, it's hard to grasp universal consciousness is a source of all that exists in-universe.

Everyone wants solutions to solve their day-to-day problems, from the time they wake up till they go to sleep. This is a daily inexhaustible seek out. To deal with the uncertainties of life, a father figure like God, and advice to pray for his guidance and help, has become a part of the human psychosomatic condition. From the advent of religions, this idea supports hope and faith of people to face the uncertain future with courage. This idea is beneficial to deal with the fears of the mind, but this thought makes a person dependent on false beliefs, so we need to promote spirituality to cultivate human beings, to fearlessly and independently handle the realities of life discreetly.

Spirituality is inbuilt in human consciousness. People cannot call themselves spiritual merely by doing relaxation exercise or some instant meditation work out. Peace, love, and harmony are the heart of spirituality. Becoming spiritual is a evolving process, a flight to reach the ultimate level of enlightenment, purely a personal experience. The level of understanding the spiritual standards, values and its wisdom is different for different people.

Human beings are the expression of universal life-force in its multiple forms of evolution and expansion. Each species is a work of genius. Human beings think they rule the animal king-

dom, but actually human beings are unimportant to other living beings. Like thugs, they rob the natural resources to develop technologies, which give them comfort and ease and not inner happiness. The fallout of anxiety and tensions has increased and mental disorders are on the rise. Every human being wants happiness, forgetting that mental peace is an attitude and happiness a state of mind. The sheer magic of natural living lies in simple things. Yet there are innumerable complex things that remain unexplained, and spirituality helps to unravel these mysterious, little by little.

Still, people are so intolerant to others religions that they are prepared to slit each other's throat. Finally, people are waking up, and want to prevent the pitiless cruelty of man against man in the name of religion. It's spirituality that creates awareness and unification on the grounds of ethics, formed into Satyadharma or spirituality to prove the futility of organized religions. The high priest of religious organization use deception to argue their case, take positions to defend, without believing in what others have to say, and stifle the voice of disagreement. History has a strange way of placing issues and events in its proper perspective. That time has come, right now.

Electrical energy cannot be seen, but we know how it works. In the same way, the cosmic energies cannot be seen but 'Spirituality' gives us an intuitive sense to know how it works. So, let everyone shed the mask worn on their face as a label to brand them as Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Jews, etc. Religions have fed people with fabricated tales from birth, then why do religions hesitate and are so defiant now, when they stand exposed. The moment people shed their false identities, facts are revealed, and then they come to know, what they knew, was nothing, but a pack of lies.

People basically are not God-fearing, they are seekers of happiness. Happiness comes from within; experiencing the inner state of natural harmony brings dormant spirituality to the fore, then one follows his own conscience and sheds the multiple personality disorder from within. Spirituality starts from self-introspection, it is to be aware, it is to be a better person, and it is to be happy under any difficult situation. It is not to undergo

a religious revolution or make a spiritual spillover; it's about embarking on an individual spiritual path to become enlightened.

Today, the flight to happiness is an outcome of living a life full of tensions. It's a pursuit for philosophy and an urge to anchor life with a meaningful existence. Our hi-tech age is crammed with words, images, and sounds, enticing people to increase greed, grab more and more money, and enhance carnal passions. But the real power comes from knowing the inner self, being natural, looking within the core to find answers, and believing in the power to live in the present moment instantaneous that last, as long as one puff of breath, and one fleeting thought, when this moment ceases, it becomes past, and the next moment comes as future. Wherever one is he should be totally there, keeping himself away from the memories of the past, and the anxieties of the future.

Spiritual life and mundane life are not two different watertight compartments. People may be doing any work for a living, and may belong to any religion, yet they can always be spiritual. Spirituality is in private domain, within the circumference of a person's inner being, where each person can unearth his own path himself. Spiritual progress is an individual issue, so each person can advance according to his own efforts. However, three things are necessary for spiritual growth, self-study, discipline and inquisitiveness. Reality is known by reasonable explanation and by personal experience and not on any unfounded information. The aim is to accept facts by self-testing.

Spirituality is beyond religion so both atheist and theist can be spiritual. People look towards religion for social accord but religions are the cause of dispute among the followers of different religions, and a constant danger to society, by giving a free rein to barbaric terrorist acts. Religion demands faith, spirituality depends on facts. Religions revolves on the experience of their founders, spirituality relies on one's personal experience. Religion and reality are at odds, even as spirituality is scientific. In today's logical world, not wanting religions is people's internal compelling urge, but outwardly people pretend, to be the followers of make-believe religions.

All living beings have their own set of qualities. A lion is fero-

cious by nature. A human being is rational by nature. People are Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, and Sikh by birth and not by their natural inclination. When religious convictions are converted into spirituality, the journey of spiritual pursuit comes to an end. Humans are destined to survive in the extraterrestrial spaces of the cosmos without the support of religion. It is the element of spirituality that will survive, not only on earth but in all directions of the cosmos wherever any living being dwells. Spirituality is not only the mother of all religions but the eternal religionless religion of whole universe.

There are more important things than simply chasing to acquire material possessions. People should not forget to seek spirituality to attain real lasting happiness. The entire world is one home, therefore, spirituality is not found in temples or in the Himalayas or in the sky or on earth. Nowhere can it be found, except in the heart of the seeker. When spirituality resides in the heart, why go to a church or a mosque or a temple? Religion has built massive structures of worship at an exorbitant cost, as it has served its utility, so now, let us make religion history.

Spirituality touches everyone's heart to pour out and taps the mind to open up, all this happens so naturally. One is prepared to accept spirituality when one undergoes the pang and pains of life. When looking within to find the inner real self, learning the values of silence, the joys of meditation, and erasing superfluous thoughts, then spirituality helps one cope with life and makes one a detached observer, rather than a participant, soaked in a new found power that prepares him to take on the world. Spirituality is a common unifying faith of all human beings.

People are pre-programmed according to family, society, culture, and religion, in which they are born and grow up. Most people are unmoved, by the fact, that they, operate with little understanding, and end up living in their own self-made prison. Their ideas are largely borrowed and are a part of their inner programming. Myths, the holy word, religious beliefs, superstitions, and rituals have retarded their inner development and they are out of tune with reality. The truth is that human nature is spiritual. It was easy for religions to fool illiterate people in the

past because they were unprepared to accept reality, but now, educated people are too eager to live a practical life.

Everyone wants to be happy. Consequently, people seek joy in money, material possessions, power and position to inflate ego and gratify senses. All external seeking are brief. Permanent happiness lies within. Intellect and senses shut spiritual skill sets, only by turning inward reality is revealed. Then people make out, they are not the body nor the mind nor thoughts nor emotions. They are a living life force, pure consciousness, which is a state of eternal bliss. Realizing that a power pervades each speck of space, in the network of cosmic consciousness, one evolves to a level of awareness to connect with it. Lasting happiness manifests inwardly and integrates cosmically.

All religions are belief systems. God is supreme. Whether God concept is real or false, it does inspire people to pursue religion. On the other hand, the spiritual urge is a natural impulse. The spirit of spirituality is to de-condition beliefs and bust the mental blocks created by religions through de-learning. So everyone must have the freedom to choose his own spiritual model. It can be no matter what. Only an individual knows it, as it is, as his personal choice. His ideal is in him so his desire will lead him to it. This is how spirituality suggests stepping softly.

Ambiguity in life arises due to spiritual neglect. In everybody's life there comes a time when a person feels rudderless and craves to connect himself with spirituality. It is wrong to judge that only the old, after enjoying the fruits of life should pursue it. Spiritually young people can face the challenges of life with ease. Spiritualism and materialism go hand in hand. Spirituality doesn't mean renunciation of the material world. It helps to control and balance the senses to attain inner peace. The essence of spiritual life is self-realization and once the inner self is realized, vision becomes clear; thoughts calm down and mind begins to comprehend the objectives of life clearly.

Religion is for people who want to live in an imaginative make-believe world. Spirituality is for those who want to live a real life on a real world. Spirituality and not religion can rejuvenate oneness of mankind, and see spiritual and material development, as a single process that can lead humanity, to

carry forward, worlds ever advancing civilization to its ultimate glory. Once people embrace spiritual power which is inherent in the inner recesses of their being, a restless world can be transformed into a peaceful place. Once on the path of spirituality, all priorities change and the focus of life shifts to sustain individual superiority and social virtues to make life better.

We live in a world of dualities, where the sacred and the sacrilegious, the divine and the diabolical co-exist. As a result, we seek spiritual experience, to discover our higher and our lower self, existing within us. Our life changes, as and when, we determine our destiny. This makes us consider, that every moment can help us, to reconstruct our own karmic path. Life exists to live in present because past is buried and future is unborn. Past events and unlived moments are stored in the mind and so the mind is lost in memories and expectations. By the time it decides now, the now or present becomes a past tense. That moment is gone forever but the mind runs after it. So leave the mind alone. Only from the level of consciousness, one can live in the present or the eternal now.

A religion thrust on people from birth never becomes a part of their system. They are connected to it just by social customs and conditioning. Spirituality is a lifelong pursuit and not a religion. Spirituality checks greed raises inner awareness and elevates human consciousness to a higher level, creates respect and reverence towards nature and life, and helps to bring more joy and more moments to celebrate our life. A spiritual outlook is essential to foster inner consciousness and protect our environment.

All religion have three components broadly [1] Rituals [2] Cultural and [3] Spiritual. There can be difference of opinion among the first two parts, but the third part i.e. the 'Spiritual' has a eternal universal appeal. Rituals and ceremonies relating to birth, marriage and death form an important constituent of all religions. Culture develops from the way of life, and its character hinges on its heritage, environment and the geographical location. Despite the fact that a man's spiritual side is free from all kinds of disparity and discrepancy, yet people more often than not prefer to function on blind faith and mechanical rites

and rituals. This is surely a spiritual suicide.

All religions are becoming riddles, and have gone astray, by its abundant absurdities. So people are turning to spirituality, which is free from the fetters of falsification. Spirituality is devoid of religion, which religion we belong to, has little to do, to boot with, the kind of spirituality, we relate to, in its real terms. Spirituality is common and one for all. Spirituality moves in the personal domain of an individual and in relationship between everyday lives, the spiritual drive is the most ideal to deal with. This connection contains the undisclosed facets of a multifaceted life of a transient existence, and the possibilities to transform life to an enlightened state accordingly.

The world is Maya or illusion. Therefore, people are born illusionist, and inherit deceit, as a useful tool in their survival kit. Deceit gives birth to overpowering illusions, which baffle people. People live virtually in the web of superficiality, a byproduct of deception, which alienates them from authenticity, the core of their natural being. In this world of Maya, we deceive each other for short term personal gains. Returning back to the core of our pure essence consciousness is reached through compassion, an outcome of our spiritual disposition.

Where are we going? Are we on the right path? How should we deal with failures? Spirituality helps in answering these questions or asking such questions and seeking answers is what spirituality is all about. Spirituality believes in the existence of a higher power but does not give it a name, or juggle jigsaw puzzles to fit a form. The shadow of the shapeless eternity is hidden in the deep recesses of our heart, difficult to grasp. Nurturing this power is not only a spiritual practice, but an evolutionary process of nature too.

The pressure to compete creates a lot of stress. People desperately want a break. They wander as a wonder shopper, looking for miracles, and ready to purchase anything, from the magic shops, run by Babas, Swamis, Mystics, and Gurus etc, to help them win the rat race. The Godman sells silly solutions, what a psychiatrist can render a practical professional service. Spiritual peddlers understand the customer's needs and recommend products promising the elixir of life for a price. There is no

dearth of bogus spiritual vendors in India.

Spirituality is the quest to know the ultimate truth. No knowledge is above the spiritual wisdom. Spirituality is perennial and persistent, just because people stipulate so many preconditions that make them unable to grow spiritually. When their spiritual attire is tattered, their existence becomes useless as a wasteland. They dry up and brood in vain. They live on the extreme edge of life, spellbound by superficiality and slowly stagnate. Being spiritual is to go beyond, and unravel the hidden mysteries laid on the trackless path of eternity.

Is world a provisional abode of suffering? Old age, disease, and death are sure to happen. This really takes away the joy of life. People resist change, because they assume change will lead to a washed out, like life ends in death. This is wrong. If, the world is constantly changing, then why will anyone try to change the world? People have tried and failed. Should we let the change happen naturally? Considering the mind is the world, we should try to transform our mind, and live the life of the mind, because we are what we think. This is the eternal truth.

Religions behind the current era are musty and moldy. Consequently, the educated are drawn towards spirituality due to other reasons too, maybe when they are hurt by their loved one, maybe when they have failed to achieve what they had striven for, maybe when they are unable to grasp the emptiness and uselessness of life, maybe when they are disillusioned with the materialistic world and relationships, maybe when the world as an illusion starts making sense to them or maybe when they are driven by sheer curiosity to know the truth.

The common denominator of our life is the perennial search for happiness. Spirituality promises the way to end sorrow and experience boundless joy. Does this really happen? If, so. What is the scope? Initially, changes happen slowly. Progress depends on other factors, such as the mental level, the intensity of purpose, and the usefulness of the preferred path. Surely, the course of self-realization is a tedious path. On this journey, a time comes, when we might give up. Since it's a work-in-progress so don't fall back. The inner cleaning process is not comforting. In fact, the path of spiritual ecstasy is laid on the trials and the tribula-

tions of our life experienced by us so far.

Satyadharma is an individual's approach to spirituality. It is an exclusive inner experience. When looking inwards, the seeker has to go alone and find his way, as he does not follow others. There is no readymade track to walk. One has to pave his own path. The more he explores his ways, the closer he comes to reality. Now there is no blind faith, no scriptures, and no rituals to follow. He doesn't belong to any religion now. Now his way is created as he walks. Life is short. Don't wait for the right moment to come. That right moment is here so act right now.

Spirituality is our birthright. It is a natural impulse, the urge to attain perfection, like acquiring wisdom and synchronizing the mind-body balancing act to achieve excellence in doing a work, to relate oneself to the source of creation, to remain at the core of inner being, to discover the unknown and to live each moment of life with full consciousness, without depending on any external help, and put self-effort and self-intelligence to activate one's own dormant potential. This is a progressive and realistic spiritual approach a seeker may follow.

In the age of consumerism, we suffer constantly from the onslaught of greed, lust, anger, pride, infatuation, jealousy, ignorance, fear, grief, and fault-finding. In this milieu, morality is missing. Then merely relying on self-efforts to know spiritual values is far-fetched. When people lose faith in religions, then it is better to practice spirituality, and see how it differs from religion, and examine what is lacking in religion. People have to choose a better alternative, as they cannot live without a spiritual backup in life.

The universal laws of nature animate matter, and inanimate the animated too. Life thrives on the body, and the mind propels the activities of life, intellect empowers the mind, and consciousness exists as the subtle portion of life force, encapsulated in the breath of the watcher. Spirituality is the limitless activity of a limited mind. So just looking at the process of 'Becoming' is a shell sight, and knowing what is behind to 'Be' is a the deeper inquiry, and unfathomable are the mysteries of life, where infinity is so profound to make out what it is, and so bottomless is nothingness floating in the vacuum of the void.

The human mind is creative. Creativity operating outside produces technology, to render physical comforts, and creativity working inside the mind leads to spirituality, showering long-lasting inner happiness. Technology makes life easy and comfortable, while spirituality reveals its sacredness on its own. Spirituality is a meeting point to discover, experience, and to witness life as a silent seer. The human mind is noisy, it never ceases to explore, and pays attention to an experience, and not on the experiencer. Spirituality can change this outlook, and make a person an experiencer, without upsetting ones religious or secular thinking.

Without experimenting and experiencing, we cannot know anything. Earlier, people believed the earth was flat, later this was proved wrong. Logically religious beliefs and suppositions aren't valid. The Gods created by religions do not exist, but as a concept it does. Language and law of the land are constantly updated from time to time, to make them work but not religions. Human mind thinks so the creation of concepts is a natural outcome of the human mind. We all think and live amidst manmade concepts and manmade structures, but religions are too rigid to change its medieval age outlook. Therefore, spirituality alone can help humanity to reach greater heights.

Today, a large number of educated people are engaged in spiritual quest and show high levels of equanimity and an ecumenical or an all-inclusive worldview. By integrating spirituality into their lives, they are experiencing spiritual expansion. People who stop being spiritually active, are more likely to suffer general anxiety, disorders or psychiatric illness. Statistics reveal women suffer more than men. Majority of educated people are disillusioned by religions, hoping to transform religiousness into a spiritual activity.

The progressive world is primarily focused on developing technologies and the creation of wealth, thus ignoring spiritual development, triggering a moral and social decline world over. People work too hard and too long to own houses, cars and other gadgets, at the cost of their health, and suffer from stress and depression and many other life-threatening diseases. People are prepared to alienate themselves from their loved

ones, and from the natural world just to fulfill their materialistic ambitions. Thus losing the values of right living,

Spiritual intelligence is not a psychological or an emotional outcome. It seeks answers to fundamental questions like, 'Who am I?' 'Why am I here?' 'Where am I going?' Such probing questions and its insightful responses make life meaningful, even if, external events of a selfish world breed hate and harm to humanity. Spiritual intelligence takes off, from the deep recesses of human nature, to the highest level of intellectual inquiry, to figure out 'What makes life worth living?' Spirituality is not a spoilsport to do fun things, such as living in indulgence, satisfying carnal desires, and taking drugs and alcohol.

The forces of creation sow seeds to grow naturally. The seed finds its place to spout on its own, without self-exertion or by any external efforts. Nature allows it to grow as is expected to grow. Since the evolutionary process is slow, it grows up passing through stages, yet the process of growth is one, but appears different at each stage. Likewise, people give different meaning to each point. So, venturing into different opinion, the mind learns to grasp, the multi-dimensional reality, which comes, from a dimensionless source. As the growth of brainpower is subtle and spiritual in nature, it can unfold the state of inner being, even when unasked.

The mind is superior to matter. Consequently, we need to be cautious, not to waste our precious life to pick and collect material possessions, at the cost of neglecting the development of our mind. Reason or opinions are inept to explain spiritual experiences. After a spiritual experience, the author was overwhelmed, by an incredible feeling, so the evidence of spiritual reality is in his vision, and cannot be deciphered by any logical analysis by him or by others. But, for sure, spiritual experiences bring a positive change in one's life, and he is never the same again.

A spiritual person does not see matter and energy as separate. He sees a unity in them. The supremacy of the spiritual over the substance is a reality. Evolution shows that species survive on their skills to adjust, acclimatize and adapt, while those with raw and gross physical presence alone perish. Human be-

ings can also become extinct if a conscious effort is not made to develop the human mind. We are here to represent a higher level of life on earth and give birth to something that wants to be born in the loftier realms of life in space. We are here not to be good or bad but to live life naturally as human beings. Besides earth, we are the futuristic species to inhabit other celestial bodies in the cosmos so adhere to this cosmic plan.

Human beings think that exploring the universe is the ultimate goal of their species, and assume to find answers to their questions, on how to spend their life on earth, separated from their extraterrestrial sources in the cosmos. The infinity of space and the eternity of time make a human existence on earth too small, compared as a water bubble that exists for a moment and burst in seconds. Therefore, the only way we can make ourselves relevant is by knowing the secrets of the cosmos, and the complex working of our mind, and the state of our inner being.

Today people all over the world share a common conviction that life has its own spiritual dimension. A majority of people believe in God(s) but the fact is that spirituality is not easily defined. People have now started considering the oneness of mankind, and see the world as one home for the whole human race. People are eager to discuss spiritual matters, read religious books of all major world religions, and appreciate the goodness of moral values. As the study of spirituality is becoming an intended choice of the people across the world. The attendance at Holy places of worship and service is decreasing. This gives that the spiritualization of the world can begin.

Religious leaders are brokers of hate. They do not support friendship with followers of other religions, since the survival of religion depends on heated hatred and acute aversion to other religions, and not on the universal message of care, compassion and camaraderie. Hate creates fanatics. A well-informed person is not a fanatic. He can vet and value the opposite point of view. The problems created by religions are due to, the lack of spiritual knowledge, which gives happiness to an individual and promotes universal message of love and peace.

Spirituality is not a religious study but a practical way of life and living. It is a process that involves the direct transmission of

insight. It is completely focused on the individual. There are no myths, beliefs or a spiritual book to follow. Spirituality aims to transform the mind, and to discern illusions from reality. It pays more attention to the navigator of human beings the mind. The world is in need of new explanations, and so are religions in the need for a new expression. Spirituality as Satyadharma is the new face of all religions.

People have lost faith in rituals and blind beliefs. They find themselves as helpless victims of religious intolerance and terrorist acts. Religions were invented for the masses. Obviously, intolerance among them creates a social disorder. Spirituality is in the private and personal domain. It is a man's own scripted religion where the individual is free to do his own thinking, and is free to work out, his own salvation, the way he likes. To the ignorant masses belongs the medieval age religion, and to the well-informed modern man belongs spirituality.

Every religion prides on its divine links, enticing followers to connect them with it. Though metaphysical ideas are beyond the absurdity of religions, spirituality stands on ground realities with no celestial connections. It simply seeks the purity of the mind. The spiritual inquiry is rational and methodical. It is open to debate, suggestions, and is comprehended by personal experience. In-depth questioning of ideas is necessary, for rigid religious beliefs to evolve, as an open-ended exploration. Only through discussions, a correct point of view can emerge. Reason and religion disagree with each other, while spirituality is based on reasonable concurrence with truth.

Religion must appeal the rational mind. Religions with fictitious ideas, blind faith, rituals, and superstitions are a danger to the world. No man should have the right to force his religion on others. But unscrupulous preachers exploit poverty to pull illiterate people, to convert to their religion, by offering monetary assistance, and not by invoking divine intervention. People must be free to choose any religion, according to their liking and intellectual competence, comparability and compatibility. In fact, it is the duty of the State to guide, and give the opportunity to the people to decide freely, without any coercion, which religion they would prefer to follow.

Spirituality is man's self-scripted faith, a evolution of mental culture, based on righteousness, its reasonable, meaningful and down-to-earth. The superfluous system of beliefs has no value in its ambit and approach. Everything is subject to examination to clear doubts, if any. Spirituality does not encourage believing anything on its face value or accepting things followed traditionally by others. One must use his own intelligence, and critical thinking to accept what appeals to him as useful, because we are responsible for taking our own decisions.

Spirituality helps us to combat stress, strain, and struggle in our day-to-day mundane life. Besides, it fulfills our most profound and lofty aspirations too, it gives a purpose to life. What we are today is the result of what we were in the past, and what we will be in future would be the result of what we are today. The significance of spirituality is spread on a one-to-one take, and doesn't aim to capture crowd mentality. It is an individual's personal choice to heed. Spirituality is individual-centric and not crowd-centric, and therefore it's beneficial and socially safe. It does not involve mass violence or shedding blood of innocent people to defend religion.

In a world of suffering and sorrow, spirituality sheds its light, to glow the world with happiness. Virtue and wisdom are preconditions to attain a state of enlightenment. Reality does not frighten people by the fire of hell, or by the pleasures of a heavenly life. The fact-finders do not indulge in petition or intercessory prayers, they believe in the importance of self-exertion and self- control. The true religion is the religion that teaches intellectual development, morality and rectitude. The best philosophy is a philosophy that guides people to lead a practical life.

Spirituality does not prevent a person from reading holy books to evaluate them, or take on a comparative study of religions. Spirituality has no place for fanaticism. A fanatic cannot be guided by reason or by any scientific study, even the destiny of man is not under the speculative control, of any mysterious external agency. Spirituality endorses free thinking and does not subscribe to meek submission to religious authority, or any supreme power for spiritual development. Instead, it raises the dignity of a human being, by accepting the importance of hu-

man intelligence and its profound potential. The intention of doing good to help others is not to please supernatural beings in the hope of reward, but due to a natural feeling of compassion for mankind.

Compassion is the highest emotional feeling and wisdom is the highest intellectual prudence. Both are nurtured by self-study and self-realization, and not by any divine revelations. Minds mental blocks are busted by self-effort, without the help of a savior sitting in the sky. No liberator can liberate us. One is liberated by the judicious use of in-built faculties and abilities, without waiting for it to happen by the grace of God. A man should not be a slave to any religion. He must make use of spirituality to make him better.

Without faith can we follow a religion? Without fear can we follow religious precepts? Can we start a new religion without thrusting it on others? Can we value a religion without mysticism, occultism and the priest? Spirituality shun rituals, superstitions, and dogmas as the perquisites to lead a spiritual life, nor does it seek divine grace or help from Gods. The gullible blindly follow religious leaders, who mislead them, by employing disruptive tactics. As a result, the essence of religion is lost in the clash of ideologies. Spirituality is a private matter of an individual, religion a public matter. Religion destroys a person's individuality as it caters conformity. Religions detest an individual as an independent entity, because he can be a potential threat to an organized religion. Religions subject each follower to their authoritarian setup, and curb an individual's right to self-determination.

Spirituality has no ideology. It is inspired by the grand intention to explore the inner and the outer world. It is not based on philosophical speculations, but on principles of assessment to experience reality. We should not waste time to know superfluous things, which do not help us to lead a practical real life. What is the source of creation? Who is the creator? From where human beings have come and where will they go after death. Is there life after death? These are questions guessed by the mental gymnastics of the mind. Accepting or rejecting conjectures is foolish. A practical person remains silent on issues beyond

human understanding. It hardly makes a difference whether a reply to incomprehensible queries are given comprehensively or not. Reality constitutes both the perceived and the unperceived. Therefore, a person is free to decide for himself, what is good for him, according to his own understanding, and not by the unreal dreamlike ideas floated by religions.

Today religion is under rational and scientific scrutiny. This change can be ascribed to the development of scientific temper, and on the impact of intellectual interest in spiritual matters, and due to global trend to reform religions or replace religions with rational and scientific spirituality. This matter must be addressed immediately. Remedial solutions too are required urgently to finish the menace of the horrifying terrorist activities being committed in the name of religion in all parts of the world. People and the State must recognize the fact that our social, political and international events are still influenced by religions, and today religion is the biggest societal problem.

Whenever moral values are debased, the merit of religion is questioned. Whenever righteousness, human dignity and the rule of law is violated, the authority of religion comes under the scanner. Religious books are not only said to be sacred, but they are infallible, and their authority cannot be questioned. Nothing is infallible and nothing can be the last word. Therefore, everything must be open to review, whenever such a need arises. Infallibility of Holy books is a rejection of freedom of thought. Free thoughts alone can lead the seeker to discover the truth.

The authors of religions struggled to respond to questions aptly. How the universe originated? Who created man? There is no proof to support their concept of a creator, and the assumption that God created had man also lacks evidence. So, it can be summed up, confessing that, we do not know. How can anything be a reality, about which, no one knows anything? Religious ideas are no more useful. The authors of holy books tried to get to know about truth but failed miserably. Their theories were an unfounded talk on a deficient reality. Their contribution created deranged social value. Reality is supported by proof, while perception and inference are the tools to prove it.

Since long, organized religions have held their follower's cap-

tive, right from womb to tomb. The virus of religion has now become a part of their DNA. Consequently, misgivings are likely to arise. Then, won't it be difficult for them to accept Spirituality or Satyadharma? Won't it be difficult to free them from the idea of God? Won't it be difficult for them to give up rituals and prayer to appease God? Surely, stubborn religious traditions die hard. Aren't all changes at the risk of stiff resistance when efforts are made to introduce?

The world should weed out vain talk and falsehood from religions and bring clarity in understanding reality. The idea of god, goddesses and angels residing in a make-believe world is funny and comical. It is hard to believe somebody's flight of fantasy, can end up in, instigating people to kill any person, who find these comic characters objectionable. Can earthling see alien celestial beings like god, goddesses, and angels, and hear them talk, without knowing their language? The people of the world can speak a worldly language, and understand worldly similes, and worldly words. The cause of all problems is the authors, who have created cosmic comedy called religion.

Spirituality follows the laws of nature and recognizes the mind as the center of deeds or karma. The mind is the source of good and evil. That's why it is important to increase goodness and check bad qualities from arising. Little by little, the mind is trained to grasp the truth. Spoken or written words create noise and delusion. Silence can goes beyond senses, to decipher the un-scripted language of stillness. Spiritual truths are deep like the ocean and the sky. Clouds pour rainwater and the rivers merge in the ocean and lose their identity. Similarly, when all religions merge in spirituality, they will become one. Spirituality is the end of all religions. As the ocean has one flavor, the taste of salt, spirituality to have one original portion of nature, the essence of cosmic consciousness.

Spirituality is a 'Do-It-Yourself' project. It has no support system to help the seeker, but emphasizes to put own efforts and self-help. Spirituality does not comprise a gathering of people, who are dependent on somebody or someone to give instructions, what to do or what not to do. It is a self-determining process of realization, a self-regulating process of self-purification,

and a self-governing process for salvation. There is no usefulness in praying or depending on others. By observing the mind, the wandering of the mind stops, and becomes a still mirror, a mirror that simply reflects. Life exists for a while, here and now, and will pass away soon. Extinction of existence and existence of extinction takes away the zest of life, so why should one fret and fume for whom?

Religions have suppressed the free spirit of spirituality. Pent-up spirituality is now struggling to express itself freely. People are trying to reach in, to draw out the spirituality wisdom from within, enabling them to study, reflect and realize the deep-seated reality of existence. Only eternal values can give a correct insight. The path of spirituality is not the path of despair. Spirituality is the goal of a deeply pious person. Thoughts tend to create opposing views causing restlessness, so negate them and strike a balance to be in a peaceful state of stillness. In stillness love, compassion and kindness come involuntarily, the unconditional craving to help others.

Spirituality does not rely on an institution. It relies only on individual experience. The focus of spirituality is on an individual and not on a crowd. It evolves on each-to-each basis, and does not have a common plan for all. Reality is experienced at an individual level. The religion of the future will aim at self-realization, knowledge will remove ignorance, and spiritual wisdom will purify the mind. Spirituality has no definition, all definitions contradict others opinions. Finally, it is what we do that matters to attain self-knowledge and self-realization.

Since no religion can claim to be the best, therefore no religion should be forced upon anyone. Each person should have the freedom to choose the religion of his choice or the one that meets his personal requirement. Thereafter, he should have faith in the religion of his preference and then through Satyadharma seek his spiritual aspirations.

The problems confronting us are spiritual problems, to be addressed with spiritual solutions, politics will not work, economic solutions will not work, and religious solutions will not work. Only spiritual solutions will solve the problem. Only a spiritual approach can put an end to conflict that has plagued the human

race, for thousands of years, and only spiritual solutions can put an end to the conflict center staged in the heart and mind of all human beings. Spirituality makes us aware how little we know and so much we don't know, we need to rid our ego for to make spiritual progress.

Religions cannot exist anymore. The days of religion are over. A radical change is needed to bridge the center with the circumference. Spirituality will help to accomplish this integration, and then the whole will lead to the evolution of a complete man. This process will dispel the darkness of ignorance, and save the world from social ills. When spirituality is relegated to the background, then ignorance spreads and many sects emerge, false preachers and superstitions spring up to corrupt the mind of the people and chaos in society. When a genuine reformist movement arrives, this comes but rarely. Then let people and the world welcome it with an open mind.

CHAPTER 9

The relevance of Satya Dharma

Spirituality alone can herald the evolution of a higher human being, who will not go to war or kill people or ridicule the beliefs of others. He will strive to establish a world without nations, where there will be no war but peace, and no poverty. Material prosperity will be shared with each other. The money being spent to safeguard the boundaries of nations when saved can eradicate poverty from the world completely. It is essential to make the world a no-war zone to guarantee a decent and dignified living for the people of the world, free from poverty, squalor and disease. Besides, there will be no illiteracy because education will be provided free of cost to everyone. Diseases will be cured by free medical care to ensure good health and welfare of all the citizens of the world. It may look like a tall order today, but this is what eventually will happen tomorrow.

Spirituality is the experiential knowledge of oneself in totality. Apart from the spiritual urge, a person's material needs like food, clothing, shelter, transport etc, are duly recognized. Spirituality promotes to live in a mutually agreeable rapport with each other, in complete harmony and peace. Now, the way religions and materialism look at things are changing. One gives importance to mysticism and other to material possessions. But spirituality being human-centric gives importance to each human being. It considers material development and the understanding of consciousness. One doesn't need too much wealth for simple living and high thinking. There is enough wealth in the world to fulfill everybody's need but not enough to satisfy human greed. Greed serves self-interest and makes one selfish.

Spirituality is based on the application of reason to seek and understand the reality of life and living, and the reality of the natural surroundings, and its influence on human life. It incorporates the principles of human value and universal laws of nature. It is based on humanism and concentrates on the cultivation of fine human qualities. It is based on the principles of self-help and believes that the individual alone is responsible for his own

happiness, suffering, and salvation.

EXPERIMENTING WITH RELIGIONS

Historically, religions have experimented with many genres to make religions more meaningful and have failed. Spirituality is not the renewal route of religions to get on well, but a real stand-in option to establish a religionless world or start the process of the spiritualization of mankind. The past record reveals that religions have witnessed the age of syncretism long-ago, when the fusion of religions was experimented. This was done by collecting the best part from each creed and integrating different belief systems.

Zoroaster lived in the age of syncretism. Two major religions were born after Zoroaster, Christianity and Islam both adopted some of his fundamental notions. Buddhism and Jainism too are a fusion of Vedic philosophy. Christianity was the first major religion born during the age of syncretism. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, Taoism and Judaism are old too, even though Buddhism underwent a transformation during this time. Among the great world religions, only Islam is much younger than Christianity. Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism were eventually adopted by hundreds of millions, outside the countries of their origin.

Akbar, the Mogul emperor of India, lived in the twilight of syncretism. He proclaimed a new, highly assorted syncretism creed called 'Din-i-illahi', by fusing the fundamentals of Islam with thoughts taken from Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, and Christianity. Akbar was not only interested in many religions. He was also tolerant of all religions. Muslims did not like his new religion which disappeared soon after his death.

Religions divide people and nations. India was partitioned on the basis of religion. The enormity of mass exodus in terms of displacement, arson, loot, and murders drenched the pages of history with human blood. The humiliation of humanity in its most horrendous form was led by the supporters of religions. To prevent this, India turned into a secular country. The state separated itself from religious institutions and alienated religions from the interference of the State. All religions were

given the freedom to practice and treat all religions with equal respect. The concept of secularism has failed. Indian secularism is viewed as anti-Hinduism and suffers from the phobia of Islam. Even the common civil code collides with religious laws. On the contrary, religions have become vote-banks. Political parties promise to appease the minority religions to garner votes.

Time is ripe for people to leave redundant religions and false religious beliefs and give way to reason, and stop following religions that are meant for the masses and does not pay attention to the development of an individual, which spirituality does. Spirituality is not a collective need, but a personal need of each human being.

When religions were introduced they were apt in that specific timeframe of history, but are no longer valid today. Communism eliminated religions. When communism diminished religions reappeared. Suppression cannot be a solution. Spirituality is inbuilt in every human being and cannot be curbed. It needs to be harnessed to accelerate the evolution of human thought from reason to spiritual experience.

The State revises the laws of the country from time to time through appropriate amendments, keeping the natural principles of justice intact. Similarly, religious precepts should be modified and all irrelevant commandments be discarded. Only by updating the religious books religions can remain relevant, otherwise, misinterpretation does more harm than good. Its horrific effect today in the form of terrorism is evident to the world.

Without transforming society the high ideals of spirituality cannot be elevated. It is easier to lower the level of spirituality, but difficult to raise society to a higher spiritual level. We should face this challenge head-on. Spirituality is meant for an individual and not for a gathering of people in a group. There is no belief system of spirituality. Spiritual awareness is based on an individual's intuitive understanding of truth.

Gurus, who insist those who follow the brand of their spiritual practices or imparted text of knowledge, must not look beyond what they teach, this is false and fraudulent. Spirituality actually strengthens individual's freedom for his naturalness to grow on its own. Even evolved Gurus encourage exploring all avenues

of thought, and universal knowledge, to build a sound base for a spiritual seeker. A thoughtful aspirant will eventually break away, from spiritual betrayal and the control of the false Gurus.

Spirituality is the fundamental nature of reality and the deep-seated state of being. Spirituality is not learned from books or is revealed at the places of worship. It is factual and not abstract. One cannot become spiritual wearing a mask. Spirituality is to be realized. No amount of talking will do any good. It is the manifestation of divinity, existing within everybody. It cannot be stuffed into any person from outside. It is present in every human being. It is uncovering of what lies hidden inside. It is realized by observing the inner being. One should not look at the beating of the heart or the rhythmic breathing or the gurgling of the stomach. Spirituality has nothing to do with physicality. The inner being is mind. Watch and inhabit the mind. When the mind is without thoughts, the hide and seek of spiritual experiences begin in the core of consciousness.

Spirituality is not superimposed, it must come from within. From time immemorial, spirituality has provided answers to the most complex questions. Besides, it has awakened people to render selfless service to all living beings. Real harmony cannot be achieved by running away from the turbulence of living. It has to come from within even in the midst of chaos. Spirituality strengthens the inner self to deal with the harsh facts of life.

Nothing around us is real. We are surrounded by false impressions, sceneries, synthetic structures, and artificial things, a world created by Maya. Knowing this, we are still creating a maze of manmade illusions, this makes us unhappy. The idea behind spirituality is to stop dreaming, be grounded in reality, and discover the impulse of inner simmering. Briefly put to 'Know Thyself' is the right understanding of spirituality in its vocal expression. When it reaches the state 'I know that I do not know' then the knowledge of spirituality in stillness and silence is gained. Silence is superior to manmade languages. Consciousness is silent and mind is a chatterbox. There is no illusion in the state of one's consciousness, except the reality of being alive. It is the mind that creates discrepancies.

IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Blind followers of religion are slaves and have no longing for truth. For them truth does not exist and making spiritual efforts are useless. They suffer from stubbornness and mistakenly believe their religion is true, and all other religions are false. The clash of religions is the result of dogmatism. Religions represent local custom, culture, and philosophy of its founder, treated as the gospel truth. All religions are partly true, rest all are lies. Religions are taking people in the pit of darkness, and hindering the growth of human mind by spreading falsehood.

There is no need to run away from home, family or society to practice spirituality or wander here and there. Spirituality is an internal journey. The reality is within. All solutions are within. So let the spiritual seeker seek within. Why people are moving away from nature and living an artificial life. Come back to nature. Look above and see the stars, you haven't seen them for years. Hear the chirping of the birds you haven't heard for years. Smell the scent of earth lost in the mist of body sprays. Feel the current of fresh natural air.

Religion is imposed so people follow it under compulsion. Spirituality doesn't coerce people to follow because it's a natural human urge. Genuineness yields more power than inaccuracies do. Spirituality is free from doctrine and dogma, commandments and compulsion. It is endowed with reason and freedom of thought in words and deeds. A spiritual seeker is free to choose what is good and what is bad for him. And accept those values that he himself concludes to be true after a self-conducted self-scrutiny. Spirituality is a creed of one's own selection.

People should be willing to be materially and spiritually inclined. Materially we are self-motivated, but to develop spiritual standards, reasonable discipline is required, to match material growth, spirituality should also grow, or else, the social order has no meaning, other than a collection of human beings, surviving on brute and raw instincts like eating, sleeping, and mating. Only spiritual values can separate a human being from a beast. Economic progress is not the sole goal of human life. Self-realization is an essential requirement for a fulfilling life.

Spirituality is self-knowledge. It makes us aware of our po-

tential and our limitations by providing right resolutions. With holy books and beliefs religions have succumbed to dogmatism, superstition, and theological factionalism. Spirituality is the turning point that can free the human mind from the shackles of religious orthodoxy and fanaticism. Spirituality can provide answers to the deepest questions concerning the plan and purpose of human life. The connection between physical and spiritual aspects of life leads to the well-being of people.

Religions have not promoted but degraded spirituality. Spirituality is the originator of all religions, the original face of all faiths. Spirituality is not thrust upon by others but is chosen by a person himself. It calls for reasonable regulation and resolution. Today faith is distorted. People are now questioning the validity of religions. Only spiritual knowledge can weed out the false from the true. Can merely reading the Bible, the Vedas and the Koran be the key to deliverance? Spirituality is the knowledge of self and lifts the veil from religious mentality, allowing the splendor of spirituality to shine.

The mind is covered by endless thoughts and desires. Freeing the mind from all false notions is spirituality. A free mind is tolerant and accepts life as it comes, to cope with the adversities of life with ease, and surmount sorrow and suffering. Harmony is the nature of human beings. Harmony is an innate act of balancing the physical and the mental energies of a person. In fact, the law of harmony pervades to sustain the whole universe. No other species except human beings can consciously be aware of this fundamental law of nature. Therefore, it is important for everyone to know oneself and nature properly. This is the gateway to harmony and happiness.

Spiritual people have a sense of purpose in their lives. Those who give too much importance to materialistic possessions ignoring spirituality are distressed by depression. Happiness is related to a sense of spiritual purpose in life. Just as greed is fulfilled with material objects, the thirst of curiosity is quenched by spirituality. So, spiritual needs are as important as material needs. They are two sides of the same coin. Spirituality is a delearning process, to erase what the mind already knows. Consciousness fills an empty mind. Consciousness is not discovered.

One simply becomes aware of it and finds himself merged and flowing with cosmic consciousness. This is a state of being in sync with the whole cosmos, active as one entity, in the endless eternity.

Troubled people look for ways and means to get rid of frustration and skepticism that surrounds them, in a fiercely cut-throat competitive world. The more people hunger after superficial worldly attainments, the more disturbed they find themselves internally. People experience the futility of a wild goose chase at some stage of their life. Spirituality gives faith in the potential of one's innate nature, and hope that keeps them going, in spite of the pulls and pressures of a busy world. Spiritual value systems help a person to face life head-on. Science deals with the physical world and unearths what is already there in a methodical manner. The Laws of gravity existed before it was discovered. It is wrong to equate a material world with the mental world.

Comprehensive knowledge, money-making skills, and spirituality make a contemporary man. Existing societies produce a repressed class of people, and a market-driven culture, creates an identical class of people, with predictable wants, making them unduly self-centered. Individuality can survive best on rationality. The rational nature is really the spiritual side of a man. Spirituality opens up new possibilities, new ideas and gives a new direction to life, and things began to change, a person becomes aware of his actions and its consequences.

More important than material development is spiritual progress, that shows the way to live a happy life, and happiness is a state of mind. Spirituality doesn't believe in any supernatural power but believes only in human potential. So no one else is blamed for what happens in one's life. An individual is himself responsible for his own actions. Through spirituality he understands his behavior, and realizes what he is doing, and knows the result of his acts. Righteousness is a consequence of this awareness. It is the right karma that eventually matters in life.

Be in the world as it is to be. Do not overlook it nor try to mend it. Illusion and deceit is a part of life, but to live in delusion and deception is not. Therefore, it is necessary to create right understanding to restore a balance between the mind and the

body. Naturalness alone can stabilize this equilibrium. As such, understanding the ways of nature and living in a state of naturalness is important. This is what life intends to be.

A purpose in life becomes a fantasy if the power to put it into effect is lacking. The whole life of a human being is a play plan of idealism and dreams. One has to rise above the flight of human imagination. The only thing that lives longer than man is his deeds. So, we should be careful before we speak and act and make a conscious effort to do righteous deeds. Faith guarantees loyalty to religion. Otherwise, the idea of religion is nothing except a vision. Now the irrelevance of religion is out in the open in the milieu of peoples growing fervor towards spirituality.

Despite technological progress, people are still unaware of their real identity and the purpose of life. Their mind is confused and agitated. They are troubled, unsure and are given to bouts of bad temper. They are unable to get a firm hold on themselves. This unhappiness has resulted because we have distanced ourselves from 'Nature'. It is necessary to live naturally to lead a happy life.

One has to be awakened, to be in a state of consciousness. When one is aware the reality is seen, and when one is not aware truth is hidden. In adversity, people look for help from their kith and kin. However, in its place, people should rely only on themselves to overcome the hardships of life. Mind like a shadow follows the eye outwardly and ends up with external connections. In human relationships, selfishness is the cause of the decline of virtue, and the pervasiveness of vice. Instead of turning towards spirituality, people cling to a mundane life. One has to choose an ephemeral solution or a lasting remedy. Material objects are provisional, spiritual values are permanent.

Spiritual energy follows the body-mind entity, to unfold and manifest. Hence, we should examine and know the human structure and its working in depth and detail. Each human being is basically a spiritual being. Each person has the capacity to realize his true nature. Everyone is born free, and this freedom is infinite. This ever-present truth is understandable. No one should denature to know his nature. We all are spiritually one, religion divides us. Rigidly in religion is a sign of decline. Therefore, let

us decide to replace religions with spirituality.

Psychiatrists avoid issues of religion and faith when interacting with their patients, and at the same time they confide, it is always appropriate to ask patients about the religion and their faith following. Although psychiatrists are not typically religious, they are comfortable discussing spiritual issues with ease, and not religious beliefs.

Organized religions represent and reflect the opinion of a small group of fanatics, who use religion as a tool to divide and hate. Such a religion is no religion. Spirituality rises above bias and bigotry. A spiritual seeker can shed the greed for money, but shirking worldly responsibilities can give a feeling of false freedom and not happiness. In the end, it is what we do to make life better for ourselves and others that really matters. The requirement of money must be is need-based, and hoarding money is just greed. Only spirituality ensures long-lasting happiness. Therefore, drop the trappings of excessive money, and learn how to put money to good use.

In the age of commerce and technology, the world is becoming too mechanical and robotic. The more we progress technologically and materially the more we lose the human touch, which is bad. In such times, seeing that our heart longs to be normal and natural, then we do need a little bit of spiritual sanity to balance our lives.

The idea of 'Religion' and 'Nationalism' has been the main cause of conflict and violence in the world. Both ideas have outlived their utility, and are no longer relevant with the advent of spirituality and globalization. The world is now gearing up to resolve problems, crippling the growth of human race. The world is now chasing the futuristic idea to make 'Global is Local'. The agenda of the world should be: All-round global development, formation of a global government, one global leader, one global currency, denuclearization and de-militarization of all the nations in the world. Lack of concern for equality is the root cause of all social problems. If we take away intellectual and spiritual resources of the world to develop human race, then we cannot survive together as one flock.

We are by nature inclined towards spirituality, yet it is some-

thing we try to seek. People spend a lifetime in the pursuit of spirituality. Self-realization comes when one looks inward and lives consciously in a state of spirituality. Satyadharma is a terminology used to put in place, the true traits of spirituality. To keep the description of spirituality open is wrought with wayward interpretations and danger of being in an undefined state.

Consciousness is an invisible, elusive reality. In the interiors of a body-mind, there is a subtle being which does not age with the body. It is different from the ego, the intellect, and the conscience. It is the vast background of all living beings and nonliving things are tied to a celestial circumference on which innumerable worlds exists, and at the core is the source of creation. This is a spiritual reality. This is experienced directly without the help of religions. Spiritual orientation is the greatest need because spirituality is the future religion of the world. Spirituality alone can usher an era of peace and happiness on earth.

Nothing is certain in the pursuit of truth. The spirit of adventure is important to chase truth. The nature of the higher self is wisdom, while ignorance is the nature of the lower self. As flowers give fragrance unreservedly, so should human beings should give their unconditional love to all in the garden of life. The higher self is constantly evolving with spirituality, which is the fulcrum of facts. Have guts to explore the mystery of life and flow with it totally.

Mind dominates matter and reason is inadequate to validate or invalidate the power of spiritual experiences. During a spiritual experience, a person is overwhelmed by an incredible emotion of compassionate love, which is difficult to describe in words. The proof of spiritual reality is in the vision and not in words or logic. Spiritual experience brings a ground-breaking change in a person's overall outlook. All kinds of separateness created by us disappear and we see oneness and unity in all things.

The advantage of spiritualism over materialism is emphasized because only species with higher mind will survive, while those species with gross physical bodies will perish. One day human race too will become extinct, if we do not make a conscious effort to develop our mind right now. We are here like antennas, to catch signals of cosmic consciousness and act accordingly to

climb step by step on the ladder of evolution. We are here to give birth to something that wants to manifest. We are here not to be good or bad. We are here to be real and natural.

Science and technology give comforts, cure diseases and enhance the span of life. That's not all. This is only the circumference and not the center of human life. Is spirituality the center? Spirituality alone is not enough. To be at the center we need to avoid all extreme methods. When spirituality lacks materialistic touch it is escapism and one becomes a recluse when he is concerned for his inner wellbeing. If materialism lacks a spiritual touch one becomes wealthy. Still, something is missing within, as there is something far more mysterious, which cannot be grasped by knowledge alone, it needs a different approach, beyond the scope of spirituality. It is content and consciousness. It is intent and the individual. Reality is closer to the thoughts we hold than to things we posses.

Spiritual wisdom is obtained, through individual's personal spiritual experience, and one's level of understanding. Spirituality is a feeling of oneself being connected with cosmic self. It is the balancing act of the body and the mind. Life has many questions and inexplicable phenomena unrequited. Human curiosity wants to know as much as it can and this spirit drive human beings to learn more. Living in a mysterious cosmos, it is essential to accept the incomprehensible by becoming a part of the cosmic mystery, feeling fully alive in unfathomable space.

Future global civilization will survive on its spiritual heritage. Spirituality offers a universal value system that binds the people together as one family. Faith is blind so it is necessary for each person to first experience it, and then believe what is right and wrong. With this practical approach there will hardly be any conflict between science and spirituality. All religious beliefs, languages, custom and cultures, all white, black, yellow and brown people, and all nations can be tied together by the common thread of spirituality. There will be no war. Everybody's education and material needs will be fulfilled. The world will become one home and mankind one family.

People must know only the basics of spirituality and avoid an overdose of unprocessed feedback. However, the overload

of crippling information, and a deluge of data, in the age of the internet, is an inevitable reality. Intuition or gut feeling is still a better option than a hit and trial method, to sort out the endless chain of data. Unstructured data causes puzzlement, when puzzled only intuitive insight can solve the puzzle. Since experiencing it personally is important so ignore data and hear and heed the inner voice. A smart hunch played, at the right moment, can reveal the truth, and relying totally on intuition is debatable. Intuition is the sum total of all life experiences.

Man supersedes another man by his intelligence. Higher ideals, innovation and excellence are recognized and rewarded by the world to promote finer traits of human intellect. The world is surrounded by a never-ending mystery. The unknowable is not known by intellect or emotions, it is spirituality, which leads one there, in the mysterious realms. Mankind's highest ultimate objective is spirituality, which is obviously, a natural evolution of life. Man consciously tries to attain the supernatural. But, the very intelligence of man is a hindrance on this path, because he starts thinking of himself and loses the invisible subtle track of deep mysteries around him.

The misery of the world can be removed if we learn to be righteous in our conduct with our fellow-beings and make the world a realm of rectitude, and not wait for death to take us to an imaginary place called paradise or hell. By practicing spirituality righteous conduct is cultivated. Offering prayers and performing rituals is nothing but superstition. Spirituality focuses on mans real nature and his disposition, turning the mind from bad temperament into good moral fiber. Only a good disposition can lay the foundation of righteousness.

Trouble arises when we go wrong by pursuing false beliefs as eternal truth. It makes us dysfunctional. Actually, most of the problems people suffer from are all self-created. Spirituality is not a speculative system. It is based on common sense. It does not offer any position on the basis of which, one can take a stand against other schools of thought. Spirituality is the law of the heart. The law of the heart is without form and pervades all over.

We need to understand ourselves in terms of change and

renewal happening constantly within and outside that grips human imagination. If a wrong man uses the right means, the right means work in the wrong way. It is the man who matters and not the means, therefore, in the end, each man must grow spiritually, out of his own nature, as spirituality is scientific. It works without dogmas or doctrine, ideals or ideas. It envisions one to live consciously, and this is how one becomes spiritual. This method is not based on beliefs but on self-experience.

Spirituality is not a new concept. It is the revival of old universal values, the restoration of a long forgotten eternal knowledge. The author as a reminder is trying to re-introduce it for the welfare and well-being of humanity. The method of passing on knowledge has not changed. In all classification be it old or new, there are similarities and commonness of the fundamental aspects, which lead to self-realization and God-realization.

We create our own problems which eventually lead us to suffering. Instead of knowing the root cause of our problems, we hold others responsible for our miseries. Spirituality brings awareness. Awareness helps to solve problems. Problems are an outcome of our ignorance. An out of control, badly behaved person, develops a split personality. He stops seeing things as one, and tends to overlook oneness and becomes a victim of his own self-created suffering. Spirituality believes in the inference of cause and effect. Cause produces an effect, and effect the cause. Inference follows direct cognition. With inferential reasoning, reality is perceived. Spirituality accepts reason and self-experience as the last word.

Free thoughts and free spirit of investigation are necessary for spirituality to flourish unstopped. Mind and matter are in a state of flux. Each moment thoughts appear and disappear. Nothing is permanent in this world or in the whole cosmos. Everything that exists is a combination of elements and energies. All these things will one day disintegrate and dissolve, since everything in existence is subject to change and crumble. The very fact that he who takes birth will one day surely grow old, sick and die this takes away the joy from life. When spirituality steps in, it gives an idea about the purpose of life. It gives a new direction to religious and realistic matters. It brings a new

spirit, a new hope, a new path, to be authentically existent and natural in existence.

Local traditional values shaped societies and religions in different geographical regions of the world. Still, the remnants of its ancient principles are intact. So, it is difficult to absorb and practice traditional beliefs by people belonging to different cultures and regional background. Forceful conversion of religion shatters the spirit of a society and reduces people to a typecast of a foreign race and culture. The eagerness of missionaries to change cultural values, traditional beliefs, and social patterns, in the land of conversion has failed. The socio-cultural and geographical spirit of a society cannot be changed. On the contrary, such situations create socially damaging conditions. Superficially it may appear normal, but in the mind of those people who convert, their traditional beliefs and values still persist. This blurs the face of religion and is vulgarized by such improvised conversions.

Whether it is a right view or a wrong view, remember no view is to be considered absolute, and beyond the preview of questioning its veracity. The freedom of thought reflects a person's societal sense of worth. No one should claim that his doctrine is the last word. The real point of view holds the truth.

We learn through direct experience. Human understanding goes further than the scope of verbal limitations. Therefore, it is important for us to grow from within to outside. The mind is best friend and worst foe. We have to overcome the mind and subdue the senses. There is no other teacher better than a seeker himself who is his own teacher. So, gear up to transcend human limitations. Shed all individual traits, free yourself from the outer self, and find a sense of fulfillment, contentment, and happiness in the inner self.

The ethos of unity in diversity is the final answer to the problems created by ideological differences, the world is facing today. The problems emanate from some religionists, who attempt to bring uniformity in religions. Is dismissing religious pluralism a solution to this problem?

HOW TO PRACTICE SATYA DHARMA?

The mind is on an expedition in the jungle of thoughts. A dicey

place to walk, with the ideas of others, we have been told about or with ideas forced upon us or with the ideas we imagine ourselves or with educational ideas learned for a living. We need to unload the baggage of all these outsourced ideas before we can discover our true self. We tag on to the universal laws of life and living and hold it fast. The essence of the law of nature is one, but its configuration can be seen by each person in different ways. A person can live a natural life by applying his own mind, or else, a person lives a slavish life created by the mind of others.

Spirituality rises over rote and rituals. It involves gaining control over the mind. Everything around us is an expression of natural laws. Good and bad are manmade values. Spirituality is far away from such values, or else, it cannot achieve the highest level of humanism. Spirituality focuses on individual's inner expedition and not on any external demonstrative features like visiting temples, offering prayers to God(s) and wearing distinctive dresses to advertise a particular religion.

People are God-centric or money-centric. Both attitudes have an element of uncertainty in-built in it. There are several questions regarding the existence of God. Religions are still struggling to find an answer. As a result, God realization is farfetched. Similarly, people don't know how much their final material requirement is. Human greed is unbridled and wants more and more wealth. Therefore, the end result in both the cases is frustrating, which ends in suffering. Spirituality strikes a balance between the two extremes and makes one happy.

Any knowledge that does not connect us to our natural being and the reality around us is not worth acquiring. We stuff our minds with multitude branches of knowledge, ideologies, data, and information. In this system of being tutored, the brain becomes a storehouse of learning and lacks substance, so people become restless, unbalanced, confused and erratic in their conduct. They must seek truth to discern reality.

Delving deep into the inner world is an exploration away from the outer findings of a human mind, and its reasoning, its logic and its intellectual perception. The state of experiential mind is brought by de-learning what one has learned. It is the journey

in the metaphysical world, which surpasses all knowledge's of the physical world.

In an uncultivated field, when season comes, then the grass grows on its own. The field does nothing, yet nothing is left undone. The spontaneity of nature is incredible. The law of nature is not different for human beings. No preparation is made by a child, to become a youth, then an old man, and finally a dead body, these stages of transformation happens automatically. Since the mind constitutes both the animal instincts (lower self) and spiritual aspiration (higher self) so we need to rest in the 'Silence of Stillness' as a mind with no thoughts creates full consciousness, and a life lived with consciousness is a life lived in the spontaneity of natural existence.

'See things as they are' is the basic idea, which requires no argument. It is an invitation to have a 'personal experience'. Those who fail to know reality have missed the purpose of their life. Enough has been taught, it is time to act now. Truth is within us, it is a matter of finding it, so plan nothing, just from being outward plug inward to know reality. Spirituality is a state of spontaneity, where enlightenment occurs unexpectedly, in an unplanned way.

If faith means to surrender then people should submit only to the laws of nature. Spirituality doesn't mean living in isolation nor does it mean running away from family and friends. Living in a society with family and friends is a biological and a social need. Spirituality is best practiced as a private, personal or internal matter of a person, without following a holy book blindly, visiting places of worship or being influenced by religious heads or preachers to become spiritual. The spiritual element is everywhere and within everyone. So see yourself and not others.

Spiritual growth depends on the determination and the methods used to accomplish or to overcome the lack of interest to manage it by choosing a lifestyle, which is supportive to spiritual growth so that spiritual progress is achieved. In between there are intervals that gives us the time to test, what may appear to be a turndown that creates a sense of hopelessness. Such conditions arise due to the incomprehension of the unidentifiable forces or the lack of aspiration or deficient

dedication or lopsided spiritual practices or exposure to rubbish the spiritual text or obsession with a sensory experience or due to lack of concentration. Therefore, follow and find a result oriented way that is result oriented and continues with it. Spiritual experience is between an individual and the universal laws of nature. It is a very personal practice that differs from one person to another person.

People should not be influenced by any biased opinions or do something that distracts the mind from the goal. Undeterred by external congenial or hostile circumstances, internal exertions for spiritual growth must continue, what may come, as a personal task. All outer support systems are useless. Spirituality smoothen the progress to develop an exclusive self-support-system because spirituality does not rely on any external support or backing. It is simply through self-inquiry or self-introspection that spirituality is pursued to its logical conclusion.

Spirituality can be pursued regardless of any religious affiliation. A person can continue with the rote or ritual of habituated practices of worship or any other familiar procedures of devotional activity or meditation. Being a Christian, a Jew, a Buddhist, a Hindu or a Muslim or belonging to any other religious sect or a cult is a superficial association. The switchover to spirituality is slow but a sure accomplishment. When a certain level of spirituality is reached then religion drops automatically. Religions tend to distort the real essence of spirituality. Spirituality thrives only in a religionless environment.

Years of religious conditioning has gripped people tightly in its fold. In this slavish status, it is difficult to swap over to spirituality, without observing the routine religious practices. Discernment makes the process easier. It helps to distinguish that a human being is a natural spiritual being, and religions are a manmade sack-set of speculations. The goal of spirituality is to live with pure consciousness and not to dwell in the web of thoughts. When people depart from the world, it is consciousness, which goes with them and not their religious affiliations or beliefs.

When the journey of spirituality starts, the path is new and the travel is easy. On the way, when thoughts are scrubbed by

reality, to cleanse the dirt of ideas from the mind, then rinsing out the psychological blockades becomes difficult, and people find themselves stranded. Years pass before they are able to reconcile and are ready, then self-knowledge is gained and the working of the mind is understood, now they are free, they are no more a slave to any religious authority, now they have learned to govern themselves. Now there are no obstacles on the road, and from now on life and living becomes smart and smooth.

The way people handle their inner being has a direct impact on everything they do outwardly. When people are calm and peaceful within, they are never in conflict with the outside world and become a blessing for everyone. For instance, when the temperature is extremely hot or cold outside, people tend to create a comfortable climate inside their rooms. Spirituality is a similar technology to create congenial internal vibes. As human experiences of happiness and suffering, harmony and havoc are triggered by chemicals in the human body. By spirituality, we can create a chemistry of blissfulness to deal with it stoically.

Being spiritual means turning inwards. To turn inwards there is no obstacle except us. The inner development is not a matter of capability but of willingness. We should examine ourselves minutely, we have many inbuilt layers of resistance, if we are willing then there is no obstacle at all. A little spiritual discipline is necessary in order to know what lies within. Practicing spiritual disciplines like meditation and yoga helps to reflect on reality.

If we peel the numerous layers of thought patterns formed by our ego one after another from the mind, in the end, we find that nothing remains. This is the state of pure existence, the existence of consciousness. The person who attains this knowledge becomes still and silent and is totally at peace with himself and his surroundings. This is the eternal truth, even if, tainted by time to tame, still it remains the ultimate unalterable reality.

Spiritual point of view necessitates a revision of religious beliefs and outlook. The power to transform enables a person to rediscover the elements of spirituality, which lay dormant in each person, waiting to awaken by self-awareness. To experience emancipation, one has to free himself from bondage.

When there is no one to command, no impediment, no landmarks, no milestones then the skill of natural living is revealed. People only have to know 'what they are' and 'how they should live' that's all. They don't have to believe in anything else.

A spiritual seeker sees a constant changeability and continuous contradictions in life. While living the life of the body, a person loses his spiritual nature. Spiritual nature or human consciousness functions by the body-mind continuum and not separately. Consciousness cannot be elevated, at the cost of the body or the mind. Though it may appear as an outcome of both, actually, it goes much beyond this unified body-mind field of human existence.

Being rational is being spiritual. The rational disposition of one's conscience is his spiritual nature. It is a mistake to practice spirituality disconnectedly. There are no separate set of rules and regulations to become spiritual nor do we have to do something extraordinary to become spiritual but whatever we are doing must be done in a rational way. Spirituality is connected with rationality. Besides, a natural life is a spiritual life. Spirituality is regaining the natural composure. As long we are natural we are not lost in the illusory world.

Renouncing the world is not necessary to become spiritual. People need not separate spiritual life from worldly life. People can be spiritual without a dress code, add-on accessories and hairdos to look holy, like the Swamis, the Babas or the Gurus do, befooling people by their outer trappings, trimmings and trash talk. Spiritual life is not meant for monks alone, the householders are equally entitled to live a spiritual life. when a householder becomes spiritual, his spiritual life is far superior to the spiritual life of a person, who renounces the world to become a hermit, even though he cannot disappear from the human habitat, as he has no choice except to live on the earnings of the householders to swap his self-created spiritual space.

Consciousness grows when people become reasonable. Religion does not appeal a rational mind as spirituality does. The exchange of opinions or ideas, a dialogue with all the existing faiths can fill this inter-religious space with spirituality, where people can step into the stream of spiritual life straight away.

Spirituality is led by the vision of reason and reality. The spirit of all religions can produce a dynamo surging the spiritual force to unify the world. The human race has entered an era that would transform the moral and spiritual life of all human beings.

Continue to make efforts and never lose hope. However small the effort, every effort makes a difference. Spirituality is the starting point of all religious change. A call for transformation can come from a single individual to change collectively the destiny of the human race. Insight is often more accurate than we are willing to believe. Spirituality is practiced through meditation. With a reasonable mind the practitioner makes headway and his whole personality changes. This is the becoming of a new spiritually awakened man.

When a conscious effort is made by shifting the center of attention inside, the mind tends to flee and fly outside, on the periphery of my house, my wife, my children, my wealth, my position and my power. If we are stripped of all these things, we feel like a nonentity. We get identified with things, one by one, and end up with too many things that our individual identity is no more centered but scattered.

Spirituality in its pure form should be taught in school and colleges as a subject pertaining to social science, shared and collective awareness tends to corrupt less and helps to dislodge all false religions and the Godman. Spirituality does not need Swamis or Gurus, who distort facts to gain personal financial benefits. A genuine swami or a guru radiates reality, lives frugally and does not use gimmicks, like wearing a peculiar dress and hairdos, to gather a crowd. Only a swami or a guru who gives false promises, instant remedies and spreads superstitions, gathers a big crowd. The process of spiritual awareness through instructors will expose false swamis and gurus.

Whatever standards or yardsticks we use, we all are simply trying to be somebody or trying to be better than somebody. By doing so we are just living our lives in the minds of others. Every human being has a unique characteristic. That's why spirituality accentuates not to be like somebody apart from what an individual human being really is unique, besides it does not matter what he wants to be, in show-off world with labels. Spirituality

means to be 'as we are the way we are' so each individual has to pave his own way towards spiritual progress.

When we observe our inner being, there is no need to evaluate ourselves. We simply need to watch ourselves. What has to happen will happen automatically, when we cannot undo it then why should we not allow it to happen? In that case, we reach a level of steadiness, where we can just 'BE', without trying to do anything, without trying to get anywhere. We move from one unknown dimension to another mysterious dimension. Since we cannot see anything beyond three dimensions, as such, we can experience only the existence of many multiple dimensions, experience it and don't try to understand it. The core of our existence is in the eternity of ecstasy hidden in the smokescreen of thoughts, burning with the fire of passions, anger, hate, greed and selfishness.

Spirituality advocates people to discipline themselves in such a manner that material things loosen its grip and control over their mind, so that, they can enter into the state of consciousness. Spirituality is basically a self-study. When the body becomes a tool to study the inner self then the outer being is not different from the inner being. The body is a natural laboratory to discipline and reach the subtler states of consciousness.

Total surrender to the forces of nature is necessary to become spiritual. Whatever exists is the manifestation of natural phenomena. The creation of the existence of living and non-living things is a grand spectacle of nature, a miracle, a riddle to marvel the mystery and magic. Believing in the laws of nature is not an escapist idea. In fact, it gives strength to make earnest efforts to carry on in spite of problems. After all, we all are a part of the great natural phenomena called human life.

Life is like a germinating seed. In the forest seed grows by itself into a plant and then a tree, to use again the seed from a tree that sheds the seed. A seed sprouting a tree to bear fruits, flowers, and seeds is a result of cyclic laws of natural. Any human effort to change the natural processes is wrought with a natural disaster. In the same way, human consciousness works effortlessly like the automatic beating of the heart, inhaling and exhaling and all other programmed functions in the body, just

as the human nervous system works spontaneously on its own so does the human consciousness in the vast infinite spaces of existence.

All the functions of body and mind, sensations, perceptions, and dispositions originate from ego, the core of all human beings. Ego gives a fake sense of self and creates divisions among people. Ego fuels the flame of hatred, lust, and envy. Ego is the biggest trouble-monger. Egos breed errors. Ego is a mixed bag of thoughts. Ego is an obstruction to spiritual advancement. Reality and not idealism is the end and aim of all existence. Spirituality is the place where righteousness, love, justice, and goodwill dwell that can transform the ego into a spiritual self.

People have been inquiring 'who am I' on an intellectual level and not from the depth of their inner being. The silence of thoughtlessness, the pulse of subtle energies, the joy of bliss, and the awareness of consciousness are the main movers of life. By building a sound foundation of life and by revitalizing the field of being, all aspects of life get enriched automatically. The spark of spirituality that glitters within all is hidden to the blind. Spirituality is the measure by which people can discern false and true religions.

Without making an effort, the growth and decay of the body happen on its own, but to shift our attention from one place to another place, we have to make conscious efforts mentally. It is for people to decide where they want to put their attention, by uprooting it from one place to plant it at a different place. Laws of nature are simple. They do not complicate things. They are clear and cyclic. They appear and disappear to come back and dissolve again. Spirituality helps to understand the effortlessness of nature and its working.

Human beings are not satisfied by material or sociological needs alone. They sense a precious sentiment grips their heart, which is comes flowing to communicate, a personal longing, a cherished thought, something that is wordless and too deep for the manmade words to express. Dive within to identify this spiritual dimension of human nature. Residing in this spiritual dimension one realizes that spirituality is the religion of humanity, breathing is prayer, living with full consciousness, and nature

is considered as God, Allah and Ishwar.

When the mind is relaxed and not restless then all ambiguities end and the capacity to perform good karma increases. Thoughts become clearer and decisions are taken with conviction and clarity. Perception becomes wider and starts expanding. Spiritual alignment not only keeps the body and mind fit, but also gives inner strength to face life head-on. This is the point where heart and the mind stop contradicting each other, and by virtue of this subtle balance, spiritual progress is made.

Life is a process of physical and spiritual development. In the initial stage, knowledge is acquired to dispel ignorance. In the growth stage that knowledge is practiced to build virtue and insight. Finally in this state of maturity harmony and happiness is achieved. Spirituality elevates the mind from basic instincts to a higher intellectual level. It is an unending quest for perfection, and nature's process to evolve human being with righteousness, which will eventually make the world a better place, where harmony, compassion, love, and justice will reign. When people live a spiritual life, they feel connected with each other, as a single human race.

When frustration becomes unbearable and hope is lost, then people look towards God for help. But the matter of fact is that, all answers and all solutions come from within. When people find the center of calmness in chaos, then they come out of the turmoil spontaneously. In this state the inner self sees the faults and shortcomings, as the greatest moments of triumph of truth. There is no substitute for truth. What we think we are. This is what the sages said, if we relish depressing thoughts, there is no way we can lead a happy life.

Worldliness is an essential part of human experience. Making a living is not restricted to survival alone, but also to evolve human beings to higher levels of rationality and human relationships. This is how one can live a wholesome life. If old people imitate the young they become an object of ridicule. If young people with no experience of worldly life, turn towards spirituality are lost, and reach nowhere. We have no choice but to live in a materialistic world, because everything is billed except the air we breathe. Consequently, we should experience worldly life

fully before we turn towards spirituality. Even those who claim to be sadhus, swamis or gurus live on donations. But a householder who earns his own bread and becomes spiritual is a genuine spiritual seeker too.

By practicing spirituality, we don't secure a place in heaven, except that we learn how to live our life in a real world. The inquiry of truth is not an intellectual idea but a natural curiosity to know the laws of nature, which govern the whole cosmos involuntarily, to transform the human mind into a state of total consciousness, which brings inner happiness, and Inner well being is crucial to maximize our spiritual potential. Therefore, we should shift from organized religion to spiritual science. Religious groups have forgotten religion and are too ambitious to garner economic gain and political power. Besides religion is becoming the biggest threat to world peace.

With the arrival of spiritual marketplace and self-styled Gurus, there is an influx of up-market spirituality on sale. There are several spirituality products but the outward appearance of the Guru with the halo of holiness and the status of his disciples is in great demand, irrespective of its unholy material. Spiritual inclination is not necessary, but the buyer must have money and to pay the Guru. These self-claimed gurus conduct courses in luxury hotels, palaces, and yachts. They have a prescription for salvation for the rich and the famous. If someone is short of cash there is less expensive spiritual coaching for them too. Spiritual classes are never free of cost. These gurus have the acumen to fill the marketplace with a mixed bag of all ancient spiritual disciplines and have nothing new to contribute. Today, witnessing the vulgarization of spirituality by these so-called Gurus makes one sad.

The much-hyped cult of Gurus raises serious questions about their being genuine spiritual guides or not. These Gurus are a wicked bunch of charlatans. They live the lifestyle of billionaires. Those who know them confirm that they visit gambling dens, indulge in drinking spree and sexual escapades. They use expensive plastic surgery to look attractive. Designer wardrobe and special hairdos are their add-on accessories to trick people by giving the impression of being a saint. Is this the real face

of the Gurus?

One must be morally strong before he decides to enter spiritual life. There is no need to shun a materialistic life in the search of spirituality. It is wrong to believe that there can be no spiritual progress as long people are attached to worldly possessions and desires. Moreover it is equally true that too much of materialistic leanings can reduce to rubble a money-oriented life, and too much of spiritual inclination can do the same amount of damage. So, balancing the spiritual and the material human needs is essential for spiritual enlightenment. Spirituality and sensuality play together. Besides an ethical life is a sign of spirituality.

Spirituality is based on simple facts and not on dogmas and creeds. To become spiritual anyone can start from where he is right now, whether he has any allegiance to a religion or not, it doesn't matter. Everything in the universe rests on a pair of opposites, light and dark, good and bad, and a constant effort to wriggle out of it. That's why a spiritual person follows the middle path, avoiding both the opposite extremes. Spirituality is self-awareness, so we simply need to watch, not try to change anything, and allow ourselves to be exactly as we are.

There comes a time of reckoning in the life of each person. When he from his heart questions the purpose of his existence, with the brainteasers like, 'Who am I?' 'Where do I come from?' and 'Where am I going?' This leads to introspection and the person starts getting mixed answers according to the level of his personal understanding. This is the initial stage of spirituality. The deeper one steps within and learns to converse with his conscience. The clarity of 'His being' and 'His becoming' emerge clearly and all ambiguities drop. Spirituality is not experienced in isolation, by climbing mountains or lost in woods. It is practiced here and now, where one is right now.

Does pretentiousness impede the quest for spirituality? Can the two co-exist? Are these two concepts in conflict? Leading a humble life is certainly a better option, to achieve a larger goal of life for a greater good. Pretentions raise self-importance and makes one selfish, forgetting the greater good. As long a person is orientated towards righteousness it doesn't matter what kind

of lifestyle he lives. Since religions have become regressive, the human progress now depends on spiritual growth, so spirituality can flourish faster with the support of the State.

Are the religious scriptures truthful? He alone knows who has written, read or experienced belief enshrined in it. Reality is revealed by trial and error. The future of religion lies in the veracity of its version and not in being vague and valueless. Spiritual instructors unlike fake Gurus will not create institutions but help people realize that 'what they're looking for is within them' and not outside in religious institutions and Gurus. Spirituality is experienced, in person, through personal efforts alone, so the argument that one person's effort is superior or inferior to another does not arise. Spirituality transcends limitation of religious books to uplift the spiritual supporter.

When a person infers truth from the comprehension of his own understanding, then nobody else can describe it to him. But if some other person agrees to it, then it becomes the truth for both. If many others have the same opinion, then it becomes truth for a group, and so on and so forth. This truth is relative and not absolute. There is a wealth of knowledge and numerous books, which don't adapt to a standardized understanding, and differ in its interpretations of truth. Such are the limitations of religious scriptures.

The path of truth is experienced personally and is unique to each person. People should not pledge their freedom to a Guru to know the truth. People must draw inspiration from self-experience. The cause to impel is within us. There is no use to rely on external forces to gain internal strength. Spirituality is a technique of dynamic living. Don't become a loner but a man of action working in a spirit of renunciation.

Rejecting superstitions beliefs and rituals, freedom from false impressions and having faith in the impermanence of things, promoting righteousness, peace, non-violence, religious tolerance and co-existence and the law of universal truth, all come under the domain of spirituality.

Ethics lead to a way of life, in which transitory temptations, have no place and each person becomes a selective subject, who discerns the worldly objects of temptation as ephemeral

and to exercise self-control. Spirituality does not believe in a God created by religions but accepts nature as God and the laws of nature as the commandment of God. It rejects the comforts of the afterlife in heaven or torture in hell. It accepts that cause and effect determine karma. Being down to earth, it refrains from promoting false promises to mislead innocent people.

Metaphysical speculations on the universe, world, soul, God, creation, and afterlife are best addressed in silence in private and confidential domain of an individual. People are exposed to all school of thoughts and practices, and our understanding has to pass through them, to separate and substantiate, which ideology and practice is wrong and which ideology and practice is right, to reach where each one want to go. By personal experience one finds a unique personalized method to reach the goal. Spirituality does not deliver human beings but shows them the way to deliver themselves through their own efforts.

According to spirituality, each aspirant must know 'what you are' and 'how to live' that's all. People don't have to believe in anything else except to understand their mind, as to how it works and how their attachment and desires arise, and how their ignorance can be removed, and from where emotions and thoughts come, and how familiar human nature and perception is with it. With this methodology human life can change completely. Once the law of constant change and temporary traits of all living and non-living things are understood, then change is accepted without apprehension or argument. A rational mind pays attention to the world and lives in the world fully but is constantly aware of its transitory nature. This is the state of enlightenment.

Being guided by religious beliefs is foolish. Beliefs are irrational and create doubts. Rationality clears doubts and helps one to explore the truth. Doubt is the means and truth is the end. It is a doubt which propels one to embark on the journey to truth. This helps to conclude truth logically. Once ego is pushed aside then the inward journey begins automatically. No one should emulate the experience of others. It should be one's own experience.

The eternal quest to find answers to oft-repeated questions 'Who am I? 'Where do we come from?' 'What is the purpose of

our life?' 'Where do we go after death?' leads to the stillness of the mind, the mind is silenced through meditation and meditation is the merging of the conscious, the unconscious and the sub-conscious mind. Once the true nature free floats meditation sinks in. Now there are no questions to answer, all answers are questions and all questions are answers. This is the state of oneness, where only truth, consciousness and bliss exist.

The path of spirituality is not easy. Let a person decide for himself, no matter what may come, and stick to it, even amidst his occupational duties and his household tasks. Life is governed by natural forces. These forces free flow through us. Why block or suppress them. Blockages blur the center of our being, and being anywhere on the circumference is easy, but being focused at the center is difficult. Once a person is totally committed, once he knows that life is only about being natural, the whole journey towards spirituality becomes easy, indeed.

Spirituality is practiced to transform false life to real life. A spiritual person is fully conscious of his inner life. He prefers the company of a person whose conduct is good and not the company of a Guru whose conduct leaves much to be desired. He considers God dwells in him and looks within to find him. He lays emphasis on direct knowledge of divinity and sees meditation as a means to spiritual seeking. Spirituality is a modern day call. It is based on the principles to promote human worth and respect each person and oppose divisions created by religious beliefs and acts of terrorism, which demean human dignity and life.

Spirituality is not set to fit a particular perspective. Nor does it disrespect others point of view. Like a bee gathers honey from different flowers. The spiritual seeker collects the essence of all religions without ridiculing them. Tolerance is a positive effort to understand others beliefs, it happens only when there is no coercion to accept or share it. Tolerance is a virtue. Let us tolerate all religions, the one in which we are born as well as other religions in which others are born.

Spirituality is a self-inquiry. When self-inquiry begins, the enquirer and the inquiry are present, and are intensely entangled with each other. But in the end, both the enquirer and the in-

quiry disappear. All names, forms, and thoughts vanish, and a state of pure consciousness is reached. There remains nothing, yet in this nothingness, there is an awareness of something, which is full of mystery and unexplainable spiritual experiences.

Chapter 10

The God Concept

The mystery of cosmic eternity is everlasting. No one can infer the inscrutable. Even the idea of God, Allah, and Ishwar is not easily erased from the human mind and will continue to last longer than is expected to last.

So, it is in the fitness of things to fine tune the old concept, redefine it in a rational way, by considering God, Allah and Ishwar as 'cosmic consciousness', a reasonable explanation that can be acceptable, to all present-day religious people, irrespective of their religious affiliations.

This concept is based on unfounded information, closest to a probable reality, on the secrets revealed by sages, intending to create 'oneness' among different religions, diverse people, and dissimilar societies in the world, giving peace, harmony, coexistence, a chance to sustain, and stay longer, even as this idea may sooner or later fade away, with the test of time, by a better idea, which forbids all foolish religious revelations.

ORIGIN OF GOD

God is an assumption from this unarguable premise all arguments flow, all is God and there is no God.

DEFINITION OF GOD CONCEPT

When the primitive man had not developed the skill of spoken or written words, God was recognized by the un-vocal, the undefined and the unscripted silence. Even creation of the universe emanated from the womb of silence, as there was no speech or writing, to hear the unheard, or describe the unseen. Language and writing came much later.

The definition of God can be traced from medieval age, when religions were being scripted, in different time zones, by different writers, with different mindsets, using different languages, under different geographical locations, and different ideological influences, and different cultures creating a variety of beliefs in the understanding of God. The presentation of God to the world

was the making of imaginative writers, who were sagacious and sensitive, and personified the scriptures, as a biography of a human being, with supernatural and magical qualities.

Their fundamental question was to know: 'Is creation possible without a creator?' They thought who else but God could create the worlds. Was universe eternal or transitory? They saw universe follows specific patterns or laws of nature but scarcely understood them. Their question about God was one of knowledge versus ignorance, not faith versus reason. God is beyond religion, he is an eternity, and how can one define something that is infinite? To define God was to create an illusion. As the human mind constantly yearns for eternity, therefore the search of the indecipherable never ceases.

We are governed by the arrangement of natural patterns. Our thoughts are woven in patterns so is our body and our surroundings. Patterns show a particular direction, direction helps to unravel the mystery around us, and moving along the line of patterns help us to gain knowledge. Since these patterns create mental constructs subject to change, we should not be sticklers of concepts, because mental concepts create illusions and manufacture confusion. Reality is not what we see and understand. Reality is beyond the reach of the human mind, we barely possess a three-dimension vision, to see the multidimensional universe.

The medieval age concept of God continues to dominate the digital age as well, which uses long-lost practices of faith. Even though God is the central character of religions, yet the definition of God is the biggest dilemma of all religions, with each religion still struggling with the meaning of God, and the mystery of God remains unexplained. The educated man is more confused about God than ever before he was in the past. God was conceived when man started articulating cosmic mysteries with the help of words. Everything mysterious was attributed to God. God manifested out of human inability, fumbling to find, the cause of mystery that surrounds us blindfolded.

In past, the definition of God had engaged the best human minds. The best thinkers still continue to find answers. The survival of God is an evidence of a great unsolved puzzle, which

connects the human mind with the mystical and the mysterious forces of nature. Since God is the creation of the human mind, why should one seek him outside, seekers must look within the working of the human mind to find him. So, to know this most beautiful mental construct called God is to realize ourself. All spiritual practices are based on this fundamental principle, an experience which is truly exhilarating to know, whether God exists or whether God does not exist.

The mystical is infinite, invisible and hidden in the subtle creases of cosmic conundrum, beyond the reach of human grasp, but philosophers and theologians assumed that a limited understanding of God was possible, so they invented different concepts, in terms of different divine attributes. Actually, the reality of God is difficult to ascertain, so it is apt to consider the set of these explanations as clues, and not as the ultimate truth of an unsolved puzzle. God is and will ever remain a riddle, and an article of faith, nothing more or nothing less than this.

The natural arrangement of cosmic functioning is outside our limited comprehension and description, that's why any attempt to define God in words through affirmation or negation is totally misleading. The mystery of God is expressed in the stillness of silence and this deep stillness and silence is so awesome that it can change the meaningful meaning and the meaningless meaning of God as no words can. Therefore, sages exhorted God is something that can be experienced directly as a living reality. The feeling of God is a better way to understand rather than struggle with the definition of God confined in manmade words. Disagreements are probable, between the way theologians describe God, and the way most believers think of and experience God.

By and large, faith followers accept that God is formless, invisible and omnipresent, some deny, some agree, some confess, yet it is impossible to get in touch with the unseen. That's why God is visualized as an image. Imagination being unreal became the theme of trust that made a distinction between the monotheist and the polytheist forms of God. Thus, the Idea of God had to undergo enormous changes. Weathered by time, it churned out complex compilations, loaded with a multitude of

meanings, and intricate interpretations. Truth is simple it cannot be complicated but authors of Holy scriptures mystified the definition of God with make-believe theories, believing if God definition is not complicated, it would come out as unprocessed and incomplete, and so enabling the faith followers to argue unwittingly that the concept of God is difficult to define.

To understand the present perception of God, discard the meaningless definition and consider the meaningful descriptions of God. The universal belief is that God is the creator, the Supreme Being and an object of worship. He is unborn, imperishable, the womb of endless potentialities, changeless among the changing, the final truth, the fundamental nature of all living and non-living beings and everything is that its interconnected with each other in the vast cosmic web of oneness. The essence behind the phenomenal world is at the core of one consciousness God, which ignites the existence of human beings with a part of its consciousness as Gods portion and as presence in each one of us. Consciousness is felt, experienced and lived by each human being. This set of connections is just like electricity, which cannot be seen but is discerned by its demonstrable qualities.

God is the cause of even the creator, who creates the whole universe. As mud in all mud pots has no existence except the mud-essence. Likewise, pure consciousness pervades everything and goes beyond those conditions which make the unmanifest to manifest possible. Pure consciousness is the womb from which even the creator has arisen. Consciousness figures out our experiences of being and becoming as realities of life because consciousness is attainable and knowable. Just as salt pervades the ocean, similarly the essence of consciousness pervades everything, and nothing pervades it.

God is a pure consciousness, same everywhere, immortal and immutable, eternal and blissful. Once the pot is broken the imprisoned space in the pot becomes the unbounded space of the universe, similarly when life's false identifications of body, mind, and intellect are broken, ego is dead and consciousness of body gets connected with the network of infinite cosmic consciousness, the subtle connectivity of God's presence. From the infinite

substratum everything comes into existence, it exists for a while, and then ends up, by merging back in it.

In religions, God is not defined in a skillful and scrupulous manner. The consequences have led to uninterrupted religious fanaticism, imposing a repressive vision towards others, employing violent means and the willingness to die for the sake of protecting an idea. To set down the definition of God in a logical order is tricky, God has not been proved so far, and remains a hypothesis hidden in mystery, but the element of God is so deeply embedded in the human mind that whether one defines it or not it will continue to live. We have searched God and could not find him. Will God now seek us? Perhaps God knows at what time, man surely doesn't know when.

We can never define, describe or discuss the nature of the first cause because it is beyond our comprehension. We can only express the unexplained by silence or point it out by signs and symbols, otherwise, it remains undefined and nameless forever. All the religions are still struggling to define God. Scientific temper demands proof and evidence. The proposition of God had come from the authors of Holy Books. So, the burden of proof lies with the authors, if they have failed to prove the authenticity of God, then Holy Books are bound to be questioned, in fact, all beliefs of God are nice stories, but till date there is no proof of God's existence. Scientific rationality leads to atheism, even if people do not opt for that controversial word.

Sages opined we are not 'here' to experience world, we are out 'there' in nothingness and eternity. There is no division between us and our fellow beings, we all are a part of a interconnected interstellar space. 'We' are 'That'. 'That' is beyond the grasp of thinking, therefore, it is unexplained. But sages have addressed it as Brahman, Holy Spirit as the cosmic continuum. Still, God's definition remains a riddle. At best, it can receive two responses from a belief that God exists, and from an atheist that God does not exist. Those who go far from the description given by religions, are people who claim that a higher subtle force is present, but the queerest of all are those who tell, they don't believe in God and go on to show that they do. The concept of God is ingrained in human DNA difficult to erase. If God

is there in the vast sky, then why people are disheveled in this baffling game here on earth?

ORIGIN OF GOD CONCEPT

During the primitive age of the hunter and the hunted, man's survival was of prime importance to save him, from ferocious beasts and natural calamities, because sufficient safety nets were not available to protect him. Fear was at its highest peak. God as a rescuer was a creation of those horribly frightening situations. This is how the first idea of God was put in the mind of man, around life-threatening fearful situations, and so man sought support systems to keep him alive, then even animals and trees were elevated to the level of mans protectors. Much later, the God idea was developed and seen as a superior specimen of a higher species, explained in abstract forms, and considered as the creator of the universe and human beings on planet earth.

The fearful helpless man had no protection, from the continuous deadly physical attacks on him, by the predators who roamed freely. Besides, man was immobilized in the face of nature's fury and subsequent destruction caused by thunderstorms, earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, floods, and disease. So man was humbled by the overwhelming destructive power of natural calamities and felt helpless stranded as a bystander. Mans inability to discern the details of nature's fury and its destructive streak were strange incidents he could not understand. This aroused in him the curiosity to discover the reasons behind the mystery of natural phenomena's, how nature works and how to come to terms with nature. As a result, 'Fear' was the cause that created the idea of God.

Consequently, fear and insecurity was responsible to breed blunted bad beliefs. Human beings began to worship the sun, the fire, the wind and the water out of a sense of extreme fear created by natural calamities, predators and their intention to pacify the fury of the elements. Human beings started praying hoping a imaginary superior authority could rescue and protect them, thinking the prayers in praise to please the supernatural forces could save them from troubles. When all endeavors fail

and life is in danger then survival extinct crave to seek a helping hand desperately, even if it comes from nonexistent sources, to help them escape from the dungeon of death. This imaginary source of protection is the creation of the initial God concept invented by the human mind.

To a man the concept of God is a psychological balm, a necessity to calm down a chaotic and muddled mind. Man in a personal crisis, needs to talk to someone, within his private precinct, at that time when he is engaged in an internal talk with himself. He struggles to find solutions, guidance and help to overcome his predicament. His internal talk with someone is none other than his own 'Rational Self' the conscience, mistakenly understood as an invisible divine persona. Human beings live within the limited field of their senses and mind, which is pre-programmed, so the attempt to exceed inherent human limitations is difficult indeed. The boundary created by human limitations gives a false sense of being controlled by some external forces, which is an illusion a fallacy.

The manmade concepts like God, soul, heaven etc are a mental construct of the human mind, conceived to rid mental and emotional imbalances, providing psychological pacification and the comfort to deal with the ground realities of life and living. This was later vulgarized by crafty men and their group for personal gains, who falsely assured people, if they offered money and allegiance to them and their cult, their wishes will be fulfilled. This increased desires and diminished efforts, creating an order-supplier God, a brand of religious consumerism.

Marveled by the breathtaking starry sky, human mind staggered in its immensity and complexity, leaving him surprised and stunned. How is it organized? Is this the work of cosmic intelligence or by an inconceivable creative designer called God? The man saw a specific order and design in the formation of atoms, solar system, and the universe, arranged in amazingly intricate and definite patterns, from the infinitely large to the infinitesimally small, from galactic clusters to atoms the cosmos characterized a fine working mechanism. Even the activities of matter and energy aren't haphazard and obey definite rules of natural laws. The entire universe from atoms to galaxies is governed

by natural laws. So it's realistic to imagine there is a unifying principle. This order is not a coincidence or a concurrence. The amazing design and laws of universe are the creation of an inconceivable mighty organizer. If we go by this line of logic, then God is not an assumption but an intangible reality, who reveals himself in the orderly working of the universe. Metaphorically we consider cosmic consciousness as God.

Later, the worship and the prayers offered to God devolved into blind beliefs, rituals and sacrifices, to achieve material gains, because man as a social animal depends on external support systems to provide security to family, For internal development man needs support system too, to regulate his inner state of being, having faith in nature and natural laws, which govern the universe but is mistaken as God in image of man, invented by the authors of religions. Faith surely helps mankind in the search of knowledge and truth. Can the God of religions fulfill worldly desires by offerings prayers or sacrifices to him? Now the question arises if God cannot answer prayers he cannot exist. If God cannot give his devotees what they want then why should anyone believe in him? This gave birth to the atheist, who challenged and rubbished all brands of religions, their marketing men and their organizations revealing this reality behind a facade.

Although man established dominance over other species in the animal kingdom, yet he was bewildered by nature's awe-inspiring presence, its fury and the serenity. Out of fright and wonder the idea of a creator and controller of the universe was born. God was believed to be the ultimate being, but no one knew who he was, nor did anyone see him anywhere, this biggest brainteaser of philosophy called God was invented by man. This embryonic concept of a supernatural being spread and caught the imagination of the people, an idea created from an unexplained premise so the supposition concerning God's existence grew with gradual mental modifications, giving scope to question and answer a manmade concept of creator and creation, into logical clarifications and opinions, evolving creative and constructive philosophy and many schools of thought.

Quest of knowledge is open-ended, knowledge does not

subscribe to any absolute criterion to conclude. The mother of knowledge is philosophy. Philosophy is love for wisdom. Philosophy dives deep into reality. Philosophy has enabled mankind to think logically, practically and reasonably to investigate nature, universe, life, living and social structures etc. Philosophy's central concern has been to face the challenges posed by skepticism and the relationship between truth, belief and its justification. Logic is the most important yardstick of philosophy. It develops a sense of reasoning by a line of thinking starting from a proper premise to right conclusions. Philosophy helps us to understand social issues rationally, from a much deeper aspect and wider perceptive. God concept is as old as the human species, and God survives till now, as if, it is part of man's encoded genetic framework.

Who was man's first father? Understanding the origin of man is tedious. Such questions have baffled the intellectuals. Did the tree precede the seed or the seed precede the tree? Or did the hen laid egg or the egg laid the hen? What is the origin of all living creatures? What is the origin of the world? The answers to these questions seem to be wrapped in secrecy, obscurity, and mystery. The best human minds have failed to throw light on these fundamental questions. Did the cause appear first or the effect? What is the primordial cause? Can there be a causeless cause? The mystery that surrounds these questions ignited the human mind. To douse the burning mind, a name to 'That' causeless cause was given as 'GOD'.

God is supposed to be the architect of the world. God as the creator is just a symbolic indicator, an intellectual inference to an outcome of numerous unanswered complex questions, which in no way can decipher the mystery of the originator of the universe. Every beginning has an end, and in each end there is a new beginning. God is where reason stops. Everything in the cosmos is made from nothing, the source of everything is nothing, nothing is surely something, we all struggle to know, this unknown something is God, a convenient 'Cosmic Constant' marked to explore the unmarked, uncharted, unfathomable universe, contracting the cosmos into a concise form.

The man has been worshiping nature from time immemorial,

venerating vegetation, trees and plants as God, some Gods incarnated in the form of different animals also , covering almost all the members of the animal kingdom, the whole catalog of a zoological park. Some showcased God in thousand forms, others perceived God as one refusing to subscribe to several deities. There is no clear understanding to justify the need of many Gods, except to suit varied emotional and intellectual tastes of human beings, God comes out in the form that each one would like to worship him. To their worshipers Gods can grant material boons. People worship deities for material welfare and benefits such as curing the disease, acquisition of wealth, success in ventures and fulfillment of desires and so on, the devotee chooses his deity according to his desire and requirements.

Hinduism believes in both polytheistic and monotheistic features of God, and retains the essence of God at the center, by amalgamating monotheism and polytheism. This dichotomy helps them to unfold the fact, that if idol worship results from incomplete knowledge, then even the belief in a formless being is an unfinished agenda. Many like Buddha remained silent on God and preached, the guiding force of life is Dharma one's righteous deeds, some advocated God is nature. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam were reformative religions propagating monotheism at a time when many Gods ruled, even as these faiths include angels, saints, prophets, and icons.

Some concepts are inborn, others are determined through senses and many are fictitious. Religious people believe in God, the atheists deny his presence and the learned remain silent on the question of Gods existence. The majority of the world population is interested to know the reality of God. For that reason, we must deal with this issue with an open mind and reveal the truth about God and make it known to the world. The study of religion and human psychology shows MAN alone has created the idea of GOD, there is nothing beyond mans imagination.

Unbiased views reveal God is a progressive concept created by the human mind. Its meaning will remain forever indiscernible. Just like a cosmic eternity, just like cosmic emptiness and nothingness, just like mysteries hidden in the subtlest layers of matter and energy and just like the cosmic mysteries that can

never be revealed in totality, God will forever remain elusive. God is the engine of human curiosity that leads to unraveling the mysteries surrounding us. Let God concept be free from absurd definitions and dictates of organized religions. Let us script a new definition of God, Let us ponder over God as consciousness, no religion should prevent us from doing this.

The idea of God has not harmed mankind but organized religions have hurt humanity grievously. God concept has actually led man on the path of development enabling him to discard his baser instincts and evolve into higher planes of Godlike qualities. It is the organized religion which is responsible for spreading untruth, unrest, and violence. No one can ever prove the existence of God, even if, it is false. The benefit in believing in the idea of God is far greater than the harm such a belief can do. God is not an object of faith, God is cosmic consciousness. Do not try to understand God, he cannot be perceived by the body, he cannot be felt by the senses, he cannot be comprehended by the mind. God is something to be realized in totality, and religions are still trying to solve the God riddle by chasing illusions. God lies in nature. God is not known by reading the Holy books, or by the keen intellect. Strive to find God and he will reveal his splendor. God is a useful term to express the endless wonder and mystery of cosmic consciousness the creator of all creation.

Faith has given power to countless truth finders to explore the realm of mysteries to unravel the ultimate mystery called God. When imagined images of God had moved away from sight, then it left behind symbols, icons, religious scriptures and places of worship as remnants, which become the objects of veneration, perpetuating rites and rituals. The influence to draw these arrangements comes from faith and not through any divine intervention. The formless can dwell only in an invisible world. The essence behind 'That' in the visible world is unseen but is in and around everything. 'That' comes not in the nature of information but as superconsciousness. Knowing 'That', the believer is no longer confined to imagination. Now, he finds the meaning of the changeless in the change.

When God and Creation was defined by man in various languages, and by the authors of religions floating in their flight of

fantasies, and then thrusting it upon the naïve to accept it, as a command of a non-existent supernatural being, created a conflict of beliefs, which continues to inflict damage to human race and civilization in the name of God and religions even today. God's renditions by religions were the most thoughtless thing to happen in human history. Even after knowing God is a man-made concept, the greatest wonder is that, man is still struggling to find, and prove the existence of God, as all religions have failed on this front.

Consciousness governs all living beings and non-living things, without consciousness we can know nothing, and we can do nothing. The knowledge of a thing and no-thing is possible through consciousness. The all pervading presence of consciousness is felt and glimpsed through the vision of intuition the sixth sense. That which exists beyond the human 3D sight cannot be viewed by the human observer, even though things are present there. To comprehend the unseen objects, examine the cosmic forms in its all shapes and shades, this sight of watch and wonder unfolds the whole universe, as centering all in one, and one in all, in a single integrated network.

God means different thing to different people, some want to worship God, others dismiss God as nonsense. Man needs someone who is answerable to him for his plight and flight, karma and dharma, yet many believe their conscience serves this purpose better than God. The modern explanation of God is centered on existence and consciousness, while religion is focused on the reverence to God, rituals, and blind faith in a concept scripted by the authors of religions long ago. None has seen God but blindly believes him. There is a gap between belief and everyday reality. If God is the creation of the human mind then God resides in the human mind. So we see and feel his presence and narrate his attributes as a super human being. Harmony and happiness is mans natural state of being, goodness is his quality, gaining knowledge is his evolutionary need, and achieving immortality is his survival instinct. All these attributes are Godly and divine in its pure nature. This can be affirmed as a simple explanation of God who bears the characteristics of goodness, happiness, knowledge, harmony and immortality.

When mind tries to go beyond, by pushing its limits and the scope to understand, then the mind sees nothing, except its own reflection. As a result, man could not conceive the image of God other than the form of a human being. So man added superhuman qualities of some superior species in space, to give a distinctive meaning to God, and to enthrall others in wonder and admiration. The obvious fact is, because man is, therefore God is, if a man doesn't exist, God doesn't exist. God is like a thought everywhere, yet we cannot see him, as a fish in search of the ocean, as a bird in search of the sky, as a man in search of himself. The whole world is beset with the idea of God, yet we cannot recognize oneness in the beliefs of the people. Man continues to argue and refuses to collectively agree on the issue of one God, many Gods, or no God at all, thus engaging all possibilities of conflict.

Even if God resembles human beings, yet he is far and distant from humans. In monotheistic religions God is worshiped in one form, in polytheism God appears in many forms. Theism laid emphasis on divine transcendence and pantheism identifies God with the world order. Contradictory characteristics of God are common in religions; despite being an idea human mind concoct clarification about God existence, believing it's unsurprising and also understandable. The God of consciousness always 'Was', is 'Now' and will always 'Be'. It is simply not the God of human making, a lot of mystery surrounds it, and there are no easy definitions, as it's all in multiple dimensions. God as cosmic consciousness has a universal appeal, has a great impact, and is conflict-proof.

In the midst of the unknown and the unknowable, the mind employs extreme experiences, from the start of imagination and the attempt to make ideas appear as real. We focus on what we do not know and rely blindly on chance and randomness, but sooner or later, the mind seeks to go away from the conventional, despite rules and reason, the mind is always in the style of seeking to searching answers. So, obviously one comes across absurd and ridiculous ideas. It is true God is deeply venerated by an overwhelming majority of people worldwide. As such, the God concept by now is deeply etched in the human

characteristics, culture and civilization. Today ridiculing God on the ground of irrationality, for the sake of pragmatism, continues to be provocative. We still need to accept virtues of restraint and self-censorship in matters governing the existence and non-existence of God.

Lot of time and human effort has been wasted in trying to realize something which is imaginary. Chasing a mirage and killing people or dying for it, in a struggle to save the idea of God for umpteen years, speaks about the darkest age in human history. God it seems has drained religion, lost its identity, by promoting religious leaders and their institutions at the cost of world peace. God concept as the ultimate truth must be recognized or expressed in its universal implications. Few have the cerebral resilience to imagine the whole, as in moments of intellectual ideas; feelings often fail to live with its total impact. Thus, truth is not visualized fully but only partially. We often forget the figurative representations symbolizing the concept of truth. That what we call reality is a hypothesis based on our limited understanding of the infinitude of nature, which can be changed by another hypothesis or by a reality model, as and when human understanding matures and improves.

Scientific exploration unfolds in a miraculous manner. God which is another word for our understanding of the ultimate cosmic reality changes the conventional rule. This theoretical 'Cosmic Constant' going by the rulebook of understanding also changes its meaning, according to the level of human understanding. There are certain things beyond the ambit of human understanding. Even as the educated try to rationalize everything, yet there are many questions whose answers are hidden and elusive. Living in the midst mystery the human mind becomes mystic and poses questions to find answers, but in obscurity every question is answered by a question, such is the riddle of mystery. No one can ever unravel the cosmic mystery called eternity, what some refer as nothingness. Therefore, the wise live as mystics and become a part of the grand cosmic inscrutability, as an unsolved jigsaw puzzle.

Everything is constantly changing and evolving, nothing is created, retained or destroyed in space, the appearance and

disappearance of things is a natural mechanism of an unending evolutionary process of living beings, non-living things, matter, and energy. Mysteriously, there is an unexplained sense of precision at work that baffles the human mind to believe that there is an originator, a controller, and a processor of this whole process, a force imagined as God by a man and the authors of religions.

Alternatively, the idea of God is also a reflection of man's fear and insecurity. The most pathetic aspect of this is the way in which we foolishly fight over our Gods, claiming superiority of one God over another God, in an absurd cat and dog fight under the cover of religions, featuring winners and losers with a free stay in heaven or hell. Belief is personal and often irrational, nobody has seen or met God, and people have been searching him from the time God concept was created. For a break, now let God search and find us. When ideas conceptualized by man, turn out to be wrong, man is certainly not unfamiliar with rewriting the concepts he creates, be it God or the scientific findings. This is a natural outcome of constant change in both ways for development or decline.

God and religion was created in a specific or a particular historical scenario to introduce guidelines to discipline the people on the basis of fear psychosis, what the State couldn't, except on criminal grounds, to control and regulate the conduct of people effectively. With judiciary and punitive laws in place, there is now little relevance of God and religion in a digital age society, where individual freedom and wellbeing precedes virtually everything else. Religion offers a mental matrix for those who are incapable of thinking for themselves, a superfluous way to control people by stick and carrot. It is so easy to manipulate the uneducated ignorant masses by religion and God, even today.

God is an idea wrapped in a form. Even today the GOD terminology is not clear. There are a variety of ideas linked with God concept, such as pantheism, idolatry, belief in a formless God, and belief in many Gods and Goddesses. Hindu sages gave the concept of a variety of multiple Gods and connected the Gods and Goddesses with almost every aspect of human life. In India alone, there are 33 crore (330 million) Gods and Goddesses the Hindu worship. Hindu Gods are different from Christian God.

Christian God is different from Muslim Allah. Despite being different religions still claim that God is one.

Sub-consciously we all know God is an idea created by the authors of religions, still we seek God consciously, when the flow of curiosity is generated to the highest level, to penetrate the impenetrable dimensions, in this surreal experience many have reportedly felt, some mysterious invisible force pulls them, in the direction of a Godlike field of energy known as superconsciousness or the state of enlightenment, like the effect of a distant electron on the atom. Therefore, existence and nonexistence of God are neither accepted nor rejected. The higher evolution of human species is not only authored by man's ideas but by nature's unexplained phenomena's also.

CHAPTER 11

Pros & Cons

Should we shoot or support the suppositions of god? The analysis allows evaluating and identifying a spectrum of diverse views and not as a prescription

VIEWS AGAINST GOD

Saints, Sufis, and Swamis have spent a lifetime chanting God, Allah and Ishwar's name, yet they have failed to find him. This reveals the real state of their tormented mind. The absence of God, Allah, and Ishwar in their life remains till their death. So, they live in a state of spiritual pain throughout their life, and waste their whole life in vain, struggling to find an elusive supernatural being. Saints, Sufis, and Swamis themselves doubt his existence and live with this contradiction secretly buried within them, and like hypocrites, they camouflage their communication with verbal deception, as if their heart was in love with God, Allah, and Ishwar.

'That', which the religionists term, as the 'Absolute' in cosmic space paradoxically, is nothing except void and infinity, which implies that the God of religions, believed as the creator and the controller of the cosmos does not exist. One should decline to discuss all assumptions of God identity, because engaging in any sort of metaphysical speculation is futile and does not help, any which way, to enhance the rational understanding of the cosmos. The prime objective must be to know 'Ourselves' and 'How to live life' well. So, we should be non-committal to metaphysical questions, as silence alone is the answer, to the mysterious unknown and unknowable.

The wrong notions of God are responsible for blocking and retarding the thinking of religious people, making them delusionally dogmatic. As a result, the religionists fail to look beyond their Holy books and are helplessly stuck in the words of the scriptures as the ultimate truth. Therefore, they miss the spirit and the essence of the real message of their religion. They should avoid being rigid and seek the spirit of Buddha not Buddhism, the spirit of God not Christianity, the spirit of Allah not

Islam, the spirit of Ishwar not Hinduism. Let all religionists wake up and connect themselves to the core and not to the crust.

It is evident that the God concept scripted by the authors of Holy books does not exist, but in the business of religions it does, to stage the show of magic, miracle and madness. People have claimed seeing God but none of the God sightings was a group sighting that could substantiate their claim. Lost in the mysteries of being and non-being, the enigma of God has confused mankind more than any other idea has in human history. How can anything be a reality about which no one knows anything? The God concept was invented by those who themselves didn't know what it was, and what they intended to create. If God was the inebriation of drunken authors, then places of worship are pubs, and the priest a drunkard and religions the hangover.

There are instances that tell us, sometime ago, there were many faithful devotees, who served God all their life, but finally in the end spate or broke the idols of their worship in sheer disgust and frustration. People are trained to turn to God in times of adversity and offer prayers and worship God. Or else, they see God also as the savior of their soul, who protects and rewards them and punishes people who don't believe him. Such situations can evoke questions. Why an all-powerful God allows dictators to massacre millions of innocent people and permit natural calamities to consume millions and render the survivors homeless? God perhaps is not as powerful as we think. God it seems can do little about the unpredictability of natural phenomena and human nature.

Do we really need a God? Why atheistic point of view is left unrepresented on this issue by the believers? Atheism is directly related to God too. If believers believe in God, atheists deny God. Atheists think that God's existence is fabricated by weak people, who cannot reconcile to the uncertainties of life, or accept the fact that we live only once and die, never to be born to relive again. Are the atheists right when they claim fear, uncertainty and death is behind the belief in God? Being conscious of imminent mortality why people seek assurance of an afterlife? One wonders that all religions promise it. Do people believe in

false promises? No one wants to die. Everyone wants to live forever. If a person after death is not born again, does God's existence or non-existence matter? Then what difference would it make if God is watching us or does not watch us?

Religions cite cause and effect as a principle to establish God's existence. Since everything in the world is produced by a combination of things, unquestionably somebody must have created the universe too. Who could that be other than God? If, God created the universe, then who has created God, with no specific answer, believers cite divine dispensation to explain the wonders and miracles of nature. People want proof of God and they don't get it. For instance, take the concept of heaven and hell it is totally illogical. Why should a man burn till eternity in hell on the basis of living a one bad life of spanning just seventy years? By this logic we should not rescue a man who has fallen in a well because he is only paying for his past karma. The theory of reincarnation is unconvincing too. It explains that our current misery is a punishment for our bad 'Karma' don in previous life.

Educated people judge through personal experience, inferential and cognate modes of reasoning and on the basis direct cognition. True, direct cognition is of prime importance. Rest all sink down to secondary level, with no value or virtue. The enjoyment that results in embracing a beautiful woman is the result of direct cognition. We all know lessons of life are learned at a personal level, without the support of God or religion. Someone who claims, it's the doing of Gods, is surely living in a different world. Is God useful to enhance the quality of our day to day life? Or is it just a slanted significance, serving no meaningful purpose, except dazed by daydreaming.

If the mystery of the unknown is to be solved, it has to be dealt with in the terms of what is already known, but no one seems to heed to this basic principle of learning. The unknown God is described in equally unknown terminology. God is said to be infinite, omnipotent, omnipresent, truth, love and a whole spectrum of wise and weird, this, that, and what not. Human intellect cannot perceive God. How can unfamiliar means solve the mystery of the unknown? These are mere words, words

showing helplessness, wasted in the pointless description of God, as an object of reality.

The majority of people are trusting, innocent and ignorant about the God concept. They struggle with unknown terms and terminology, little do they realize, the futility of their efforts. Time passes away and they are where they are. Their knowledge of God remains in obscurity evermore. The intelligent are conscious of their capacity and incapability and give up the chase. The ignorant believe that they know God and in this ignorance, they parrot the tutored concepts to the world as gospel truth.

There are people who don't believe in God. Why do people need to believe in something they don't feel strongly about? When people are in love they don't say 'I believe I am in love', they know that they are in love because the feeling of love is so strong that they can hardly think of anything else other than the person they love. Due to lack of same intensity of sensitivity people don't believe in God. Keeping in view the fact that people are conditioned, from birth to believe God, they do so, and their caged mind falters, to reject the existence of God.

Why do we use the word God to name the Supreme Being, an expression which has led to so much hate, death and destruction of civilizations. Why do we have to go to religious places to interact with God, when God is everywhere? Religious leaders make false promises, telling followers, if they perform certain rituals, and repeat certain prayers Gods grace will shower on them. Can a suppressed and tormented mind, loaded with denial and burdened by false religious beliefs give a correct explanation of God? With distortions we can never grasp the meaning of an extremely imbalanced, unnatural and twisted view on the concept of God.

Have we ever tried to inquire, why only human beings struggle to find God? Why don't other living being do the same thing what human beings are doing? Isn't God important to them? Since ages why man alone has been trying to prove the existence of God? If there was a God guiding the destiny of man, surely he would have appeared in broad daylight before people in person, and put to end sin, cruelty and misery once and for all. Why ever since God was invented by authors of Holy Books,

God is eluding the crowd? People should not leave their destiny to whims of Gods. They must take full control of their lives and navigate themselves with righteous deeds.

The universe was created and 'Man' appeared on earth millions years ago. But 'God' and 'Religion' originated few thousand years ago, with the advent of Avatars, sons of God and prophets. Has God done injustice to all those billions of people who lived and died before the beginning of religion? Where was the God of religion at the time of Stone Age? Why did he choose to appear in the medieval age? Was God gaining experience before launching his religion? God wasn't well-informed and isn't wise. In this ploy, God looks like a worldly man.

Most of the Hindu Gods are decorated with an array of glittering weapons. They have multiple heads and multiple arms to tackle the hydra-headed enemies who work incessantly to destroy humanity. Would these Gods have come, if the man lived a life of benediction? It's when the ruling class is corrupt and fails to deliver justice that men start looking for saviors. Those who shunned statecraft in favor of spiritual values became the alternate leaders of the masses, like Krishna, Jesus, Buddha, and Mohammed. They changed the prevailing society. It's bad and blind religious rituals and superstitions, with their reformative thoughts.

People express gratitude to God by worshiping the 'Founders' of religions. The authors of Holy Books the preacher who sermonize and the institution that creates separate religious group work to entice people to join their religion. People are lured to become members of a group and are led to believe their God is different from the Gods of other religions, this God can fulfill their worldly desires, protect them from day to day troubles, and shoulder their responsibilities. These people don't realize that freedom comes by taking on responsibility, and by performing righteous deeds, and not by evading them as slaves of bogus belief system or following a preferred God among the many Gods created by numerous religions.

In the early period of history, no one had any idea what was going on, Ignorance prevailed during the formative years of human species and God did not exist. When reason evolved then

mental constructs started emerging and eventually dominated the world. Today, the natural world is under the monopoly of human thoughts. In absence of a regulator and to tame animal instincts, God concept emerged. Over the years, the evil done in the name of God is now forcing people to explore the possibility of a better alternative. The creation of man by God is false, and it is invalidated by the theory of evolution, which outlines the ascent of Homo sapiens over millions of years by the process of natural selection. So, now God is a historical object like a relic of a bygone age.

All religious texts of the world claim be the word of God, coming from the sky, by way of revelation decoded by a prophet or by the many Avatars who moved down on earth or through Gods descendants or even Gods own son who descended on the gravel of the globe. Myths are full of inexplicable lapses and inconsistencies. Its perspective is not universal but is restricted to local confines. Can these credentials be relevant in a certain frame of time and place? History has never affirmed its validity and authority. In the present day, people need motivation through spirituality, and refuse to be manipulated by redundant religions.

When imagination crosses the frontiers of human limitations, it bounces back, like the reflection on a mirror, or comes back like an echo in an empty room. Therefore, God did not create man in his image. It was the other way around. Human beings are naturally solipsistic. God concept moderates their stand on self-existence and egoism, and holding human beings to the will of a higher authority. But in reality, God and religion aggravates human egoism and fosters violence to ruthlessly persecute people. Belief is often irrational, nobody has met God, yet man is still trying to meet him, now it's the turn of God to meet man. God was created in a specific frame of time, to pass strictures and subdue people what the State could not do. Now, religion has no relevance in an age where individual freedom precedes everything else.

Why do people wait for God, to act on their behalf, for them? For a while, let us assume there is God, now is it wrong to disagree with him? God is not the source of good nor is God

himself good. We personify God because it's a convenient way to make him more or less like ourselves, which gives us the confidence to become a benevolent being. Even after the reign of thousands of years, religions are still stained by fresh human blood. A blissful person who celebrates every moment of life would hardly follow such religions and their Gods. Man needs God, when life metes out a raw deal, like poverty, famine and epidemics, greed and wars, or when thing are uncertain or when a person is on deathbed, then the business of Gods thrives well.

Many do not believe in the existence of God or holy books or rituals. They believe that no creatures not even a human being is immortal, all are subject to death. So, let a man for that reason live in ease and comfort as long he draws his last breath. After death the body is burnt or buried and the man who enjoyed himself fully during his lifetime never returns back after his demise, so let a man enjoy himself to the hilt, accumulate wealth and spent it on the gratification of his desires, and eat, drink and be merry, so enjoy life now as there is no hereafter.

The four elements, earth, water, and air comprise the composition of the human body. Consciousness results from the combination of body, mind, earthy and cosmic elements, even as, inebriation results from the use of intoxicants, so does soul takes on the body and disappears with the dissolution of the body, the existence of soul after death is not demonstrable by direct cognition nor does its creation by a God.

The narration of God in holy books is the creation of authors who have embodied in it the biographies of human beings. God is the most ungodly thing created by man. Each religion conceives God from its customs, traditions, and culture, currently, materialism is the defining factor of modern civilization. Yet, vast majority passively accepts God as the creator and the originator of the Universe. With centuries of mental conditioning people believe in the existence of God, and criticize and condemn those who do not believe, to them the existence of God is obvious, s to question his existence is not only considered as absurd but as profane, sacrilegious and blasphemous.

Reality is what we take it to be true, what we take it to be true is what we take it to believe, what we believe is based on

beliefs, what we perceive depends on what we look for, and what we look for depends on what we perceive. What we perceive determines what we believe, and what we believe determines what we take it to be true. What we take it to be true is a self-conceived reality, which is different from universal reality. A controversy over the existence of God is raging from the time God concept was created. If there was any God directing the destiny of man he could have come down on earth to guarantee his protection and put an end to all evil?

God as the master of the destiny of the people promotes slackness, softness and sluggishness in a man, making him slothful and lethargic. So a man is likely to commit bad deeds, hoping his sins will be pardoned by God. Even in prayers, human weakness is seen. People demand from God that which cannot be gained by the grace of anyone, but by one's self-efforts. The common man wants to believe what he can comprehend easily, so he tells himself that what he sees in church, mosque or temple is nothing but a symbolic form of God. Consciously he says this is God, but subconsciously he convinces himself, it is not and lives his life in a constant contradiction, whether to believe or not to believe that God exists.

VIEWS IN FAVOR OF GOD

Is faith in God necessary? People are spoon-fed and conditioned from birth to believe in God, even if they know nothing about him. Trust in God gives them peace of mind, creates self-confidence, self-esteem and a will to carry the burdens of life with ease. So nothing goes against credence and conviction in God, provided this thought of line is directed to make oneself a better person or for the greater good of the people, society and the world. There is no argument against faith. Therefore, no reasoning goes against God, which can shake people's faith in him.

There is something further than the ken and knack of human understanding, which is above all material intentions and interest. That's why man has throughout the ages been struggling to seek something beyond him and the depth of his insightfulness, something people accept as God, and something that cannot be troubled by changing circumstances or by notions or by any

other perverted version.

God pervades like ether, he is the source of creation, sustenance, and dissolution of the universe. God is not the record keeper of what he creates, supports or dissolves, nor does he escort anyone to heaven or hell. We are cognizant of the existence of God by observing godly qualities like knowledge, intelligence, wisdom, justice, mercy, intuition and oneness etc. God is super consciousness, and possesses infinite power, the source of everything in the whole terrestrial space.

The whole cosmos, the galaxy, the universe, and the world are made of substance and spirit. The primordial substance or matter manifests into various visible and tangible objects, as the material cause and the pervading spirit or super consciousness or cosmic consciousness or God is the efficient cause of the whole cosmos. A reality that is not easy to decode and grasp.

Through robotic missions in space, man can use the technological prowess to control distantly, and operate manmade instruments by manmade remote energy, unseen by the naked eye. Likewise, all living being on earth are the instruments of God and the remote control of their birth, existence and death are in the hand of God. Therefore, the presence of a supernatural power, even if, it cannot be seen is not negated. As such, the existence of God cannot be denied. God is a reality.

For instance, no one can see air yet all living beings breathe air to stay alive, air is the universal life-force. This airy element is deeply rooted in the bodies of all living beings. We all are an inseparable part of this energy called air. This unseen force is present in all living beings. When human beings become more and more spiritually aware, they develop a subtle awareness that all living beings on planet earth, are interconnected as an inseparable part of 'One' cosmic entity, the medium and matrix of a vast superstructure of cosmic consciousness called God.

We have no mathematical, rational or technical methods, which are reasonable, except the imaginable option to swap infinity with God, so that the presence of the unborn and the undying is known and felt in our lives. God is the power through which we see, then how can we see God through whom we see. The world of God consists of inconceivable, visible, invis-

ible, subtle and gross dimensions, existing in unimaginable forms and shapes, and indescribable sources of senses. Consequently, the presence of God is beyond our three-dimensional limited perception, and with restricted and tapered five senses, if we overstep our brief, we suffer delusions, and see things, which are not there. This has resulted in lopsided descriptions of God in Holy Scriptures.

No theory or any proposition or any hypothesis is required. The approach to know the concept like God should be seen thoroughly from ground reality. God idea starts from unknowable to knowable, and reach people wherever they are and takes them step by step, from the lowest depth of ignorance, to the highest peak of understanding. People are made to reflect, comprehend, test, verify, experience and realize the ultimate truth. It provides sufficient material to people, to think for themselves, in terms of knowledge, intelligence and wisdom. as a pointer of Godly qualities, a man must cultivate.

Knowledge, intelligence and wisdom take us up to the furthermost point. No one can take us beyond that point. Yet we do not want to remain there. No doubt, our curiosity needs something more of something we do not know, to make use of it and go beyond it. God helps us to cross this impenetrable barrier of observation, keeping the riddle of God animate alive. Therefore, despite various views expressed against the existence of God, the world is not likely to see the end of God because the impression of God is hardwired in human genes.

Nature communicates in Silence. Symbols, signs and all languages are manmade tools to communicate. Therefore, defining God in any manmade language or through symbols and signs is a futile exercise. Even Buddha remained silent on the subject of God, because making a statement on God is to go beyond words. God is a whole existence. Words are invented by the human mind and mind has no connection with the source of creation. Even atheists swear in the name of God that God does not exist. If philosophy, metaphysics, theology, and religions have failed, science too is struggling with this brainteaser. If the unexplainable requires proof so does its denial. What we do not know does not negate the information of its existence

and non-existence.

The most reasonable observation is that God is cosmic consciousness. This quantum transition represents the mind and the material world as the body. The God of religions is the creator of the universe, even if, he has created man he behaves like a man, talks like a man and performs miracles to save mankind from crisis and calamities. Believers who look up to him, say God can still perform such feats. Sensitively speaking it seems man is ready to bestow anyone the status of a God if he can save him from trouble. Even saints are canonized on the basis of miracles, and not on their humanitarian work. Recently, in India, the rise of Sai Baba as the richest popular God is a testimony. It seems our Gods are offspring of our personal and economic dissatisfaction. God is above petty sentiments. Let us revere him as the highest cosmic consciousness full of knowledge, wisdom and light.

Ego is the cause of evil and ego divides the world. When we surrender to Gods monopoly and superiority, then the fear of God helps to shed our ego and make us humble, so that we do not hurt our fellow beings and other living beings on earth, in this way the virtue of humility is developed. Further, the connection with God helps to reduce the undesirable instincts of passion, possession and attachments, thereby helping us to develop the virtue of detachment. Overall, the God concept helps to subdue man's ego and his baser animal instincts.

The power to sustain qualities like universal compassion, love and brotherhood comes when our mind is possessed with the idea of God. The source of virtues like moral excellence, selflessness, righteousness is the direct outcome arising from the inspiration of Godlike qualities, which is a step in the right direction, evolving human excellence and developing a progressive civilization. God is the most valuable idea shaped by the human mind to benefit humanity. Over a period of time, we need to reinvent the interpretation of God on an ongoing basis, to keep it alive so as to facilitate a nonstop surge of development in the pursuit of finer human qualities.

CHAPTER 12

Does God Exist?

Is God real or imaginary? Profound thoughts precede unfolding cosmic mysteries of empty ethereal space and spirit, spiritually sacred and substantially secular, inside the matrix of matter, and mind masquerades majestically, the magic of the most maddening mystique

Does God exist or not? The man has posed this unanswerable question for thousands of years. Since the dawn of civilization, man has failed to find an answer to this questionable question. So far till now, this single question alone is the cause of conflict between those who believe and those who don't. Currently, God concepts in many ways continue to play an important role in the life of mankind, in the formation and development of societies, in the opinionated relations with nations, and as the cause of global terrorism that is bleeding the whole world with guns and bullets fired by fanatics.

How can God, a concept based purely on human imagination and assumption, be a reality about which no one knows anything? However, those who believe and those who don't believe in God are equally foolish. Believers must understand the Gods that existed in human forms earlier, have met their end long ago. A dead God is not likely to revisit and save them from their worldly troubles; even old Holy Books won't be of much help in current circumstances. As far as non-believers are concerned, they too, by constant denials keep the idea of God alive.

Instead of arguing whether God exists or not in the interstellar space, it's time we start looking within, to find the bliss of godliness hidden inside, rather than seek God outside. So invoke and rely on this subtle holiness, which lies within and not outside. We can look within our inner self only when we stop searching for some celestial being outside. if we want to achieve Godhood, then discard all man-made Gods and scriptures and prefer the path of right understanding, giving room to a God of loving kindness and compassion who lives in us. God resides in the deepest silence of our heart, God is not someone who lives in the sky or is separate from us. He is our innermost

essence, the source of life, the core of our being. It is for us to decide. Do we want to believe in a God who may or may not exist? Or cultivate Godhood within us? It is also up to us to decide whether to follow ridiculous religions or wake up to the creed of self-awareness, righteousness and wisdom.

The universe is not simply substance, it is spirit as well. There is an element of energies that constitute cosmic consciousness, which is an offshoot of whole matter in space put together, in a very subtle combination that produces collective energy building blocks, which harmonizes the working of the whole cosmos in its creation, continuation and conclusion. Paradoxically, if we remove the body and all that constitutes a man, we will not find anything like consciousness as a leftover. Consciousness is an outcome of a combination of body and mind, which cannot survive on its own as a separate entity without a body-mind structure. This is a universal law. Therefore, the thump rule is, if man is God is.

God for some mysterious reasons has kept himself beyond the cognitive powers of intellect and beyond the grasp of human vision and understanding. We often wonder whether God really exist. This question has been bothering philosophers as well the common man since time immemorial. The sages and the enlightened mystics have been answering this question but the question still persists and does not disappear. God will not disappear because it is an eternal quest of all human beings, to discover God as a separate entity or acquire Godlike qualities themselves.

Experiencing God can be deceptive. This has led to determine the faith in God on a rational basis, and judge the experiential point of view of the believers. Numerous attempts have been made to prove the reality of God. Many have denied its logical validity, stating a belief in God is like any other belief, an act of faith. God as a being is in our imagination, it is man's extended projection as a superhuman being. God is even presumed as pure energy that creates the universe, which is constantly changing, in a state of impermanence, a continuum where nothing is static except God. The universe is vibrating, pulsating with pure energy, this impersonal energy is God. Visible matter and

invisible energies are interdependent. The brain can process the invisible and eye the visible.

For years man is searching God and couldn't find him anywhere, it is now the turn of God to find a man, and a moment in time, for man to discover 'himself'. Let us leave God to the philosophers to intellectualize the non-figurative, and the nonrepresentational concepts. If a man cannot find the God of religions, let him not waste time, let him find that which is relevant to his 'life and living' and dare to see the face of eternity, so remove the mask over nothingness and see something-ness unfold. People's expectations are changing because their perception of 'life' is changing too, but religions are not changing and are still rigid and the source of conflict. Whatever we see we filter it and create our own idea about it, we live in a place, which is place-less and the trace of our life trace-less in the mess of comic smoke and dust. As matter and energy are convertible so is body and consciousness. God is a matter of belief if we believe him he exists if we don't, he doesn't exist.

The nature of mystical experiences reported are varied and various, for instance, people have seen the vision of people they had never met them before, the presence of blissful beings, peaceful promptings by the inner voice, signs, and symbols to convey a message to humanity, and the presence of a holy being radiating blissfulness, and visions that come to convey a revelation. There are people who suddenly become aware of the power of cosmic consciousness and oneness they call God. Perhaps, those who undergo such experiences seem to hit against the limits of their own being, in doing so, some suddenly become aware, of a supernatural energy transcending them, and mystical entities, which produce wonder and enthrallment in their life.

The God particle lives in each human being, and God is everywhere. So, let us look for God that is within us, and around us, and not anywhere else. Our mind cannot expand further, to know what lies beyond its limited reach, an area beyond our understanding. Therefore, belief in God is strongest when we are close to nature. Nature operates in patterns with rotational and repetitive accuracy. The sun rises in the east and sets in

the west, there is a schedule for the solar system, a time for seasons and for the tide in seas, cosmos reveals the mysteries that have lasted for centuries. Our life follows the cycle of life and birth. Such efficiently working by a set patterns convince us that there is a master controller, a CEO somewhere up there, someone who pulls the strings, someone who has set up, the project of existence.

If God is as we are then the whole universe is as we are, because without the human mind there is no God, no universe, only plain nothingness and eternity. We need a God, as we need to know our source and ourselves. The mystery of God wouldn't exist if the world wasn't a mystery itself. God and Universe are mirrors that reflect back human thoughts. Even if we try to re-define them, it will still remain human-like yet mysterious, even as old myths created wear out, even as new ones spring up from our mind, our truths are not cosmic truths, both are poles apart. Therefore, we can never know the real truth about God and the universe. It will forever remain an unsolved mystery. A British mathematician used a probability theorem. He calculated that there is a 67% chance that God existed, still how unsure arithmetical results are.

If God is beyond the reach of mind, reason, and language, then God has been left for the test of the senses, which means God can be felt and not seen. This is a smart trick to keep the idea of God kicking. As a result, there are several claimants who have reported having encountered God presence but are unable to express it in words. God survives in mind due to uncertainty and fear of death, fear of death is not a fear of the unfamiliar. It's a fear of what is known to all of us. After death no one re-appears, that's why, when a person dies, he is burnt, buried or left to vultures. It is difficult to accept after our death, the world goes on as before; we see death happening every day but fail to reconcile with this reality, and think we shall never ever die.

Where is God? Don't look skyward, feel and experience him on ground. What is up there is here below? God is nature, pure consciousness, a cosmic energy. We all have a hidden God portion in the making of God and our mind is the source of God. At some moment in our life, we feel intrigued at the world, we are

living in, some call it a stage on which we play the role of our life, others call it a dream world, and we wonder who controls it? Obviously, the name of God comes automatically. God is the intellectual expression of the ultimate cosmic reality.

EXISTENCE OF GOD CANNOT BE PROVED

Out of body events indicate what we don't see exists. In some way it signifies human consciousness (soul) is distinct from the human body (physical). Is soul a mirage? We don't know. Similarly, cosmic consciousness (God) is separate from all other galactic super structures orbiting in interstellar space. Soul and God both are unexplored features of a rational comprehension. We have yet to discover the overall aspects of nature and know the reason for the shape and color of crystals, fauna flora and all other material constituents of nature. Is it the handiwork of God or the result of natural phenomena? There is no reason to disbelieve the existence of God but the concept of God forced on people by religions as a result of blind faith is an issue of concern that needs to be rationalized.

The unknown begins from where the human perception ends, then looking at the unknown is like seeing our own reflections in a mirror, and it's then that the unknown acquires human characteristics, and its then that God is projected as a man, and an atom as the universe, and a drop of water as the ocean. In this way, eternity is better marked as a referral point to avoid spoil systems of speculation to cloud detectability, which would again reflect similarities that could match human characteristics.

Human beings are thought-driven. They live in a web of concepts existing, constantly amended and developed by the ever flowing river of thoughts, both at rational and irrational level. In the turbulent sea of thoughts man needs an anchor, a resting place, God concept helps him to escape from the tide of thoughts, and fear of uncertainties and death. Exposure to an equal number of rational and irrational thoughts creates confusion, so the need to restore inner tranquility by an inner talk, and the need to discard irrational from the rational assume importance. Then God as a being becomes necessary, with whom one can address and have an inner talk.

Things can exist only in an interconnected and interdependent world. Nothing can exist in isolation. Even the smallest particle the atom exists with the cooperation of various elements as a complex combination. Similarly, from conception to birth we are totally dependent on others, all this applies to physical terms of existence, but a human being is not a only a physical entity, but is predominantly ruled by mind and consciousness which is energy. The energy-based thoughts cannot simmer and burnout in isolation, the projection of the mind to create God upon whom it can gravitate is a natural outcome of interdependent inclination as a natural phenomena. There is nothing erroneous that goes against the laws of nature forced by the idea of God.

Judiciously, for physical protection and for the emotional fulfillment, man has created family, society and nations, all these arrangements are manmade, similarly human mind created the concept of God. If family, society, nation, civilization are seen as an illusion created by mental constructs, so where is the harm in seeing God as an illusion. If we can accept manmade civilization, then why cannot we accept a manmade God? Because all these manmade structures are relevant so is the idea of God relevant, as we need the support of systems like society, so does our mind needs the support of an imagined protector like God, to pull off the play of life well.

The vast majority of people insist that God exists. A growing minority does not believe in his existence, the honest answer is we do not know anything about God. God's existence or non-existence cannot be proved. It is far beyond human understanding and for human senses to grasp this mystery. God is the biggest riddle, whether he exists or not is an unending topic, a never-ending debate. Both believers and non-believers enter and exit from the same door all come and go, yet the mystery remains miles away with no end to it.

A man in search of God in a church, mosque or temples is often compared to a musk deer, who is unaware of the treasure embedded in him, and looks for in the jungle, to discover the source of the fragrance that lies within him, like oil in oilseeds, like fire in the glow worm, like butter in milk, like consciousness

in man are similes used, to drive home the fact that the God particle is ingrained in all human beings. Inwardly people believe in the existence of a higher being but outwardly refuse to admit it. So the query about the existence of God will always end in disbelief. Skepticism is a rational view but is not the reality of consciousness, and at the same time, we know that almost all schools of thought agree that hope, faith, and trust is the premise around which all belief systems evolve.

The cycle of day and night, the rotational sequence of seasons, the waxing and waning of the moon and the precision of planets in orbit, reveal that creation is regulated by a mysterious order, inferring that an intelligent machine is operating with a precise plan and purpose behind it. This harmonic synchronization of a grand cosmic scheme is not accidental. The methodical formation of patterns in nature could not have come into existence, except by the work of a great architect in progress.

The matter is actually energy, if we deconstruct matter into molecules and atoms to its subatomic stage. We reach a level where subatomic particles turn into a 'phantom of energy' dissolving into the void. This void is not empty. It actually is full of that element which is dynamic and being 'one' pervades the whole void. This basic substance manifests material phenomena at the time of creation and absorbs it back at the time of dissolution. Nothing is really created or destroyed in the cosmos. One primordial element pervades the entire universe. This is the divine element called the God particle. This is the ultimate reality of science. This God particle is not an abstraction of the human imagination. It is a scientific observation.

Space is infinite and dimensionless. When observed by various living beings, it gains multi-dimensional features. Human beings see the universe in three dimensions. Or else there is no texture in the natural world, it is colorless, soundless, it is our senses that create the universe. Senses interpret raw data and create a world of forms, colors, and structures. The observer bestows meaning and traits to cosmic reality, but galaxies, universe, planets, and earth does not exist in reality as we see them. We may still see on earth the light of a burnout star, so immense is the inconsistency between cosmic reality and

cosmic illusion. Finally, human beings have conceived the God concept as one consistent reality that probably prevails over whole universe as cosmic consciousness.

When on earth an unexplainable phenomenon occurs, man is curious to know how it has happened and explore the cause. When the cause cannot be grasped, the occurrence of the event is called a miracle. Every event has a cause. The cause is the result of laws of nature. There are no supernatural causes what people continue to believe in. A man may not be able to discover the real cause, but with his inherent intelligence and scientific temper he is bound to discover it one day. So superstition and supernaturalism must be replaced by rationalism and wisdom of truth. Cosmic consciousness is the cause of creation and not the cause of any miracles in human life.

Who created the world is a common question. God created the world is the common answer. When questioned who this God is and how he came into being, there is no answer. People believe God as omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient and many qualities are also attributed to him. God is said to be good, just, and loving. The fact is that, nobody has seen God, so people only speak of God. He is unknown and unseen. Nobody can prove God created the world. The world has evolved and not created. What advantage can there be in believing in God? It is not useful. Religions based on God are not worth following, they end in lies. The doctrine of God is not based on truth. Belief in God is wrong. Blind belief in God creates superstitions, rituals, and false credence. The value of worship and prayers promoted the office of the priest, the mullah and the pundit. Their cunningness and badness created beliefs, observances and ceremonies, to make the business of religions flourish.

The question God exists or does not exist is not the issue, nor is the question of whether God created the universe or not. The question is how the creator created the universe? Did God create something out of nothing or did he create something out of something? Since something cannot be created from anything, the possibility is ruled out. If God has created something out of something, then something out of which something new was created was in existence before he created anything. Therefore,

God cannot be called the creator of the first cause. Belief in the God of religions is a belief in falsehood as all religions are based on speculation. If we take an unbiased rational view, the mysteries of universe and life on earth are still unproven. Yet, science has not stopped the exploration to prove it? Likewise, the mystery of God's existence is still unproven. Why should a religionist or a spiritualist stop his quest to discover it?

God must be proved before one can accept a God to be true. There are two modes of proof, perception, and inference. No one knows what God is like, we surely do not know. How can anything be a reality when no one knows anything about it, such views come from the mind's eye. Things exist although they are invisible. Therefore God exists even if he is invisible. But an invisible thing must show itself in some form that is demonstrably visible. Then alone it can be said to be real. The reality of electricity is accepted because of the light it produces. From light we agree the reality of electricity, even though, it is invisible. In law too, it is common to accept, as a basic concept, a proposition, whose existence is not proved, but that which is assumed to be true. We accept it as legal. Why a proposition is accepted as legal? The reason is that it gives just results. Of all the arguments on the existence of God there has to be some rational, majority views are theological. We know these arguments are not harmful, for the progressive evolution of human thought. Therefore, silence is golden on this issue and not a negation.

HOW TO KNOW GOD?

In space, matter is made of atoms and dark matter by some unknown particles. Atom is composed of a nucleus made of protons and neutrons. The nucleus is surrounded by a cloud of electrons bond by an electromagnetic force. Electrons are placed at a particular distance and location and can mingle with other atoms. Yet, unaffected of being dragged away, as if tied by a delicate, yet distant connect from a far-away, far-flung connection, as if a consequence of cosmic consciousness or God, which we do not know wholly, it's still a statement of supposition.

When people go to places of worship do they find God there?

Is God an entity or a presence? Is God a concept or an experience? If the heart is the center, mind the periphery, then only through the heart we can experience God and heart is where love resides. Let love become our prayer, meditation our religion and consciousness our God. The problem is that all mental constructs are cramped and curbed by terms and terminologies. It is impossible to confine God in the language of words. God existence is not explained but experienced. The moment one tries to use words the idea of God is lost. God is the essence of nature and we all are part of it. God is not known by reading Holy Books. It is also hard to silence the mind for the heart to feel. The individual self is not different from the universal self or God, which means man too can develop Godlike qualities. What more does a man want.

If one believes in God and it turns out to be incorrect then one has lost nothing. If one doesn't believe in God and it turns out to be incorrect then one ends up being a fool. In the game of probabilities or realities, a match is often a tie, either one finishes with nothing or one suffers damnation. In other words, it is foolish to be an atheist. At least, belief is a better choice from wagers prospective. The mathematical probability of God reality is two, God exists the other God does not exist. Now, God idea has three options, appear as a creator or disappear in oblivion or continue to live as if nothing has happened, this is a sensible than being true or false. After all cosmic mystery is beyond the range and reach of limited human awareness and intelligence. So, acceptance or denial of God is totally a foolish proposition. Therefore, silence is golden in such matters.

We imagine God is formless energy that exists away from human perception and expression. Those who claim seeing God have vouched God cannot be seen with normal eyes. He is seen by divine eyes, a vision granted by none other than divine forces or by the opening of the third eye or when the veil is lifted to reveal the form of God or an inebriated state after taking intoxicating drinks or drugs or in a state of hallucination. These fast flashes of something indecipherable cannot be determined. These are not ordinary perceptions but induced or stimulated. So this is not a process to know reality, but a state of virtual vi-

sualization. Consequently, we must work out, at a personal level to explore, and discover the reality of God, if any. All we have to do is to find God within, we don't need religion to do that, the inner spiritual search is sufficient.

Trying to comprehend the question why and how to grasp cosmic eternity and know nothingness is unanswerable. Who created the universe? No one can answer an unreasonable question. It is like asking what came first the egg or hen. There is a logical fallacy in the very question being asked. So God is not at fault, seeker certainly is. As living beings we must understand that natural laws govern the universe and as a human being, we should learn to live a righteous social and personal life, and we need to respect the rule of law and social values. That's all.

Mans mysterious nature moves him in the direction of transcendence, tiring to reach a tiresome invisible, realm of the unknown as something supernatural. The supernatural being or God is that shrouded mystery, which cannot be understood. God is above all human ideas, perception, knowledge, and rational understanding. We have to understand this unknowable essence that we seek is the cause and the aspiration of man. Is God a mere idea or a useful invention, philosophers would like to describe God in such way.

People are obsessed with God, heaven, sin, and salvation. This will not lead them anywhere except towards disorientation and delusion. The most important thing to understand is, how we all are bound by human limitations that restrict the expansion of human knowledge, if one understands this, and free him from this bondage, then where he has to go, he will anyway go. So, untie the knot which binds us, so that all bondages around us break, and then in the freedom of thought, let us 'know ourselves'.

'Know thyself' is an inquiry intended to inspect the intimate inner personal portion of man to focus on the mind and its attributes. It's in the understanding the rationale, man discovers that knowledge which bears the characteristics of universal appeal and oneness. However, the search of an elusive God from within and outside is essential to distinguish, since the importance of

God is still held in esteem in one's personal life and in society. One should discuss this issue with an open mind. Living on a Holy Book serves no purpose, actually it retards the mind. One should change with time by a futurist and far-sighted vision.

There are two paths to vet and value the God concept, one is based on reason, and the other is based on devotion. In the age of materialism, the minds of people are soaked in worldliness, where maximum money and material ownership is desired right away, the path of devotion is less cumbersome, because the life of a man depends on material possessions, so it is difficult to nurture the subtle nuances of consciousness, and without love for God the path of devotion is baseless, and without the wisdom of God the path of reason is baseless too.

God's way of being 'present in the world' is in the clue of his 'absence'. He is not present by being present. God is present by being absent. You cannot pinpoint God is here or there, God is everywhere. God has no religion. God is revealed as the ultimate cosmic reality and the refuge for humans. The invisible is manifest in every visible object. God is perceived both in the presence and absence of the visible.

By chanting Gods name, by fasting, by going to pilgrimages, by worshiping him, by praising him, and by offerings prayers to him, one is slowly and steadily conditioned to love God and follow religions blindly, reason has no place on the path of superstitions. In fact, reason is seen as an obstacle and is opposed by the faith followers. There is nothing wrong in this approach, but how do we free them from false rituals and rites, without appealing reason, innocent masses are misled, manipulated by the rouges in robes.

Each human being is one with God, yet he needs to remove the ignorance that covers the truth of his Godlike attributes. Ignorance is false identification with body, mind, and senses, only when the ego is dissolved truth is revealed. The ultimate truth of God is nothing but a state of pure consciousness. God is the seat of immortality, its essence is peace, happiness, harmony and bliss, in the quest of which man wanders from here to there. God abides in the heart. To meet God one has to enter into the deep recesses of one's own heart. The journey to ones heart is

blocked by impurities created by the mind, which gives rise to desires and delusion. By devotion and self-surrender, reflection and meditation, these impurities are removed.

When a man grows up his mind becomes a record keeper of all that happened to him in past, therefore whatever he thinks now is nothing but a repetition of thoughts and experiences coming out from his memory. Unconditional love can only discern the divine and its source is the heart. The heart has no logic, no cause-effect, and no organized arrangement. Love is a feeling that suddenly pours from the heart; it follows no method, no technique, and no invocation or prayers springing from the heart spontaneously. Silence goes beyond words, words can describe the known, and not the unknowable, rooted in faith one can experience the mysterious. Faith does not come easily. Life is full of distrust and doubt. Therefore, man sees snares and traps everywhere.

God is an unseen power that guides us. Visualizing an invisible power involves complications. The most convenient way is to say that God is everywhere, and therefore, there is no need to go to sacred places to find him. The philosophy build around the formless God is manageable by training the mind, and by removing the deadwood of meaningless rituals and rites, created by the hardwood brains. Man is encircled by unknown and the unknowable building blocks bricked around him. God is an outcome of these unfathomable mysteries. The absolute is nameless and formless so is God a concept centered on cosmic consciousness mysterious, which borders on nothing and emptiness. Some are attracted to the objective world, as it reveals the transcendence of reality, while others are attracted to a subjective world, which reveals the impermanence of reality.

God is cosmic consciousness a presence and not a form. People simply believe in God so a gap between belief and reality appears. Everything we experience as reality is born in an invisible realm beyond space and time, a realm reveals to contain energy and information. This invisible source of all that exists is not an empty void, but the womb of creation. Cosmic consciousness is the source that creates and organizes this energy into stars, galaxies, human beings, thoughts, emotions,

memories, and desires. After centuries of knowing God by faith, let us know this the divine intelligence. Our notion of reality is actually in doubt. Instead of God being an imaginary projection, it now turns out to be the only thing that is real and natural, the cosmic consciousness.

God is infinite. Can we estimate the immeasurable as a gender? He or she is a human convention and what about 'That'. The most important point is, if God has a presence then he can be experienced, and he can be known. The moment our consciousness merges with cosmic consciousness there is an elated sense of ethereal oneness. In this way the invisible and the untouchable God is experienced. Some may not experience this, even when God touches the material world, so it doesn't mean God as cosmic consciousness does not exist. If so, then God will remain inaccessible forever. Should we forget God and now talk about comics.

We cannot connect with God without inner silence and purity of heart. God as a superior being is a projection of human thoughts. We experience God as pure consciousness. God exists in our whole being and externally in the whole cosmos. God is not controlled by human customs, nor can we confine God to sectarian notions. Nor can we associate God with beliefs or symbols. Many concepts of God exist but none conceive God as consciousness. Divine mystery is ineffable, no discourse can describe it. Discussion about God inevitably ends in silence. Mystery defies definition, so let us all be a part of the mystery and feel the essence of the formless invisible God in silence.

The question whether God exists or not, cannot be answered by Holy Books, priest, mullah and pundit. In fact, nobody can answer this question. Even Buddha when he was asked about the existence and non-existence of God remained silent. The idea of a creator is an assumption, a product of faith. God is not an object of comprehension so why try to comprehend that which cannot be comprehended. God cannot be perceived through the body, cannot be felt by the mind and cannot be comprehended by the intellect. So looking for answers to unanswerable questions are ruled out, God is something that has to be realized. Ironically, all organized religions are still struggling to solve this

riddle. He who strives will find, and to him alone God reveals its formless form.

Man does not absorb things directly. He grasps things by impressions. Rationalism is concerned with impression made on the mind, while empirical experiences are derived from the senses. The question arises: Can knowing a subject makes the knower certain of the reality of the known subject? If so to what extent can he be certain? So accept nothing as true or false. Maybe even God as cosmic consciousness is not a reality or not. So analyze and discuss, arrange and align views expressed by others on the subject, in order to study and examine. Enumeration must be full and complete, nothing must be omitted. In doubling up doubting, one thing is certain, someone will doubt, some will not, and to doubt is to think and to think is to be, therefore, I think I'm. This is a self-evident proposition intuitively grasped and not as a conclusion of truth.

We have felt the presence of the unknown some time in our life. We experience the unexplained and go through inexplicable implications resulting from the incident. Life follows its own wisdom, uncharted and unknown, so we have no choice but to accept whatever life brings in our stride, so it makes no difference whether we are alive or dead. We are just a part of a gigantic 'life force' emanating from the unfathomable universe, as tiny living beings, like a speck of dust on earth, and therefore, It is heartening to assume that Humans are the workmanship of God, created for good work and to walk on the righteous path. This creative process brings us closer to God and we discover the essence of the creator.

God is believed to be the source of the 'Observer' and the 'Observed'. God is unborn and uncreated, beyond space and time, and is as inconceivable as eternity is. Everything in the universe is interconnected and interdependent. We all are simply the offshoots of a single entity considered as cosmic consciousness. So we are both the observer and the observed, tied to one chain of consciousness. We see others as we see ourselves, because all of us are the many facets of a single consciousness alive in the abode of oneness.

Consciousness is a circle with no circumference. Its center is

the human being. Conversely, God is a circle and its center is everywhere. When freed from the center, we realize the nature of our true existence, which is none other than God. Thus God is within us as a part of our real self. When we are conscious of this connectivity, we live in a state of consciousness, and divinity lands us in the state of constant bliss. The ecstasy, joy and bliss of truth are felt from the heart, but are unable to give a rational explanation. The totality of this experience when put together is Godlike. Reason can take us to the door, but to enter the house of God, we must know, to know God.

The colossal cosmos is astonishingly consistent. Identical natural laws apply everywhere. Even with uncertainty and chaos, the universe appears to be a well organized place, where everything appears to be synchronized, and is working with precision, in a systematic order, suggesting the presence of a stabilizing force, sustaining the belief in a higher power called God. Problems arise when this power is conceptualized as a character in a comic strip.

Science started understanding the physical world through the principles of determinism. Then quantum physics brought a paradigm shift in the understanding of the physical world. Quantum physics views the world, not as a reality or a probability. In fact, it's the nature of an experiment that influences the outcome. In essence the more we know the less we know. It is intellectually unsatisfying especially to a world used to scientific rationalism. Therefore the probability of God's existence, as cosmic consciousness cannot be dismissed.

God's grace flows from a different cosmic dimension, which is beyond our understanding, something mysterious happens, and an unfounded factor emerges prominently, hard to explain. We simply call it a coincidence. God's grace operates in its own way. Those who have been blessed know it, and those who do not know denounce it. It gives the world what the world needs, and not more than what the world wants. There is no difference between an ordinary person and a saint. Both are atheists till the divine is not perceived. Since it is hard to put the divine in words, many types of rouge have been canonized as saints and many saints as rouges, because the one who testifies, probably

has never experienced the divine himself.

God is all-pervading he is present in matter and energy, and in every atom of the cosmos. His presence is subtle and infinite outside our perception. In this continuum, we can term the entire cosmos as God particle. The God particle is like an invisible cord, wired across the whole cosmos, in a colossal web of cosmic consciousness. No pictorial depiction can reveal Gods appearance. Everything is connected with God, the living and the non-living, and the whole cosmos. God is subtler than even the subtlest object and the source of everything. Consciousness is present in every atom of existence. That's why spiritual seekers believe that the whole cosmos is alive. When incapable of imagining the vast nature of innumerable possibilities, a man with his limited capabilities wonders in amazement and asks himself. Can I know the unknowable God? Find it yourself. Why wait for others to answer it?

Chapter 13

Why Seek God?

Is God necessary? Do we really need him? Separated from a secure womb, the struggle to reunite with physical, material or spiritual security nets begins. God is a psychological panacea to handle the vagaries and vicissitudes of a vague life, like a vigilant vanguard.

From a spiritual point of view what is more important is that God is talked about by one who believes in his existence and the one who does not. Is it essential to know God? What difference does God's existence or non-existence makes or breaks the ordinary course of human life? Do we really need a God? Most people feel they do, as God fills a vacuum in their lives, others are not sure whether they need God in their life, but a lot of people are quite clear in their mind they don't need a God. However, a majority of humans believe in God and may continue to do so in future. So, it is imperative to rationalize the concept of God purely and plainly as 'cosmic consciousness' the highest celestial citadel.

People are caught in their fantasies, expectations, and desires. Whosoever can fulfill their wishes is a benefactor, a Godfather. The God concept engineered by human imagination covers this aspect too. Man creates God in his own cast and reduces him to a mere mortal. All concepts are the creation of the mind in a monologue. We need to go beyond this and catch the transcended expression of the celestial. So, it is better to examine what triggers intense mystical experience and what we feel during this profound experiences rather than wasting time confirming or denying the existence of God. If God does not exist he must be created. After all, there has to be some indicator 'Cosmological Constant' on which the whole superstructure of the universe rests, even if it is unexplainable and beyond the reach of the human mind to grasp.

Historically, the concept of God has varied significantly, depending on the camp, culture and the cult that creates. But belief in a 'Holy Being' in a sense has been predominant in almost all societies and civilizations. This belief has been challenged. How-

ever, since ancient times, with the explosion in population, the proportion of unbelievers is higher in modern societies than has been in the past. Arguments against the belief of God are numerous, atheists deny the existence of God absolutely. Material existence constitutes ultimate reality, in dearth the evidence for and against the existence of God is inconclusive. Nonbelievers defer and delay judgment. Believers believe the rational inquiry is restricted from questioning the experiential facts. Therefore, it is meaningless either to affirm or deny the existence of God.

There is a rational as well as an experiential justification for the existence of God. The rationalists are doing a lot of work to straighten the record. Yet, they see themselves as pygmies before the giant volumes of unexplored knowledge. Even in the pursuit of materialism, if the rationale is jettisoned, it is tossed in the turbulent sea of utter confusion. There is a widespread belief that divine intervention can overcome calamities and fulfill wishes. If God could reverse any helpless outcome, then sensitivity on such beliefs could promote the development of a trusting relationship. Because hope, trust and faith are essential in life, assuming God would intervene when things look helpless, gives the confidence to face the uncertainties of life with courage.

The human mind, fascinated by the cosmological mysteries, cannot endure anything that isn't solved and so the end of all interstellar mysteries is the God phenomenon. The human mind cannot comprehend other than the identity of God invented by the human mind. God is someone we have never heard or seen, something our senses have never experienced. In a constantly changing world, God is a constant factor. Changes create fear. Faith in God is an antidote to fears, and faith keeps the world moving, despite odds, what may come. This faith keeps hope alive, faith is everything, and that faith is the trust in God.

Some believe God is not nature nor the creator God is the face of the ultimate human being, the culmination of the evolutionary process of humans, developing them into a perfect human being. If we keep this God concept alive, man will surely transform, no other concept can beat or match it. Little do we realize that man as an alien will inhabit other planets, little do

we know the potential of brain power that may manifest in our evolutionary process as an indiscernible dynamo of unexplained power. Aren't we moving towards Godlike qualities? What more proof do we need that God created man in his own image?

How can anything be a reality about which no one knows anything? Why do we need God? When no one is with us he is there to share our happiness our sorrow and as our conscience he acts as a philosopher guide. The moment we are separated from our mother at birth, God is our companion, rescuer, liberator, and a bosom friend, whom we want to stay by us forever, and not wait for his next coming. It is often said God made man in his own image, yet when we think of God we start imagining, thinking or visualizing how God may look, if we have a form, God too will appear in some shape or form. Without eyes can we see an object? Can eyes see any invisible things?

The influence of fear and insecurity create phantoms of goodness and god-like qualities, why then deny the existence of God. Does God exist? Is a question that has pitted non-believers against believers and time and again the nonbelievers have cited lack of evidence to confirm God's existence, so where does the truth lie? Though there is no evidence available on God, we still cannot negate God's presence easily, since God has been a part of our collective consciousness for a long time. In fact, it is precisely, because of this we cannot look at God objectively, since he has made the transition from being a concept to a religious figure, now hard to erase, otherwise there is no evidence to prove that God is anything else except a myth.

The belief that there is some power which is beyond our comprehension, something which controls everything in the universe and is beyond our reach, we call it God. Rational belief is a fallacy, that is not God's job and that is not God's purpose and that is not God's function. God of our imagination is but not the God who really is. Humanity's belief of God has changed from time to time, now when will we say bye to our yesterday's God. The process of change is never-ending and that's the joy of evolution, a movement that brings a radical shift in the understanding of God. We don't need a mass movement or a bloody revolution, but through spiritual activism, we can change ourselves the

way things are, and redefine God in whom we can have faith. From church, mosque and temple bring God, Allah and Ishwar at home. God, Allah, and Ishwar is a personal need and not for the masses to breed social conflict. What we believe at personal level is important and not the blinkered vision of a mob.

Belief in God is essential for the development of character and moral values. Reason and logic end from where the unknown starts. Only through the tools of belief and faith one enters into the realms of the unknown, therefore, the relevance of belief and faith cannot be denied, only blind beliefs and blind faith are to be discouraged. Better than blind religion is the spiritual reality, which attracts the contemporary man. We should practice faith, values, and philosophy of life in the privacy of our home rather than carry out formal, ritualistic, ceremonial religious practices in public domain. In spiritualism one realizes the importance to grasp the philosophy of life, before one proceeds further without a superficial knowledge. Only spiritual knowledge is profound and perfect to decode the mysteries of life and the universe and not religions.

The world is witnessing a spiritual awakening at present, and God-consciousness is sweeping humanity like never before. There is dismay and disbelief about God. God is not this. God is not that. God is nothing. God is simply a topic of discussion. Are we a God portion walking on earth? Is this the wisdom of spiritual age to recognize? Is man probing God because he feels homesick on earth? Why there is no communication from God even as man on earth seeks him constantly? Maybe we come from some other planet and God is our ancestor. That's why in adversity we remember God, seeking his help and long to meet, like a lost child looks for his mother's protection.

Maybe, God is the occupant of a special planetary realm, whose progeny are the earthlings. Who offer him prayers to save them from the harsh realities of life on earth, and for the homecoming they desperately beg God to take them back to their mother planet from where they have come, so many await God's arrival on earth. Throughout their lives people struggle to come closer to God, and in death depart, as if they are going back home to meet God on a celestial planet symbolically called

heaven and hell. If this turns out to be false, then God can be cataloged as an imagined psychosomatic comforter or a symbolic representation of a cosmological constant or the creator of an unfathomable universe, or the paragon of virtues humans are supposed to emulate to reach a higher level of evolution and interstellar existence.

The craving for God is filled with the longing to end the ever-enduring cycle of emotional pain. Very often people ask the author does he believe in the existence of God, he sees no reason to say that there is no God, because if he does he will be hurting the sentiments of people. He thinks God lives in us. God is consciousness. God is goodness personified. God is an abridged form of the word good. God is a powerful thought that inspires us, it's a call from within, hearkening to wake up from slumber and become conscious, and that is what, people long to last. Nobody has seen God invented by religions, a creation of the human mind. To find God one has to look within, hear the inner call, the voice of the conscience, single out the good from the bad and become conscious, as 'consciousness' is the state of being in perpetual bliss.

The nature of evolution is to constantly evolve into higher human species. Therefore, the concept of God is an outcome of this natural arrangement, and not necessarily an imaginary concept but a reality of a cosmological expression and order of cosmic laws, the need of mankind is to reach higher levels of cosmic existence. So God is required as a common leveling and balancing denominator, as solver of suffering and liberator of limitations. We think of God, and reflect on him in the image of man, to develop into a new and higher grading of human mentality from gross to subtleness. This process is delicate and difficult to decode. The glimpse of this phenomenon can be experienced when personal consciousness merges with cosmic consciousness.

Laws of nature governing the physical body are specific and conform to a set pattern, but the laws that govern the subtle world of mind are complex, it gives room to surf both good and bad thoughts freely. Yet, different laws govern the gross and subtle world. A number of cosmic laws regulate the cosmo-

logical order. Our existence is also governed by a set of natural laws. Many cosmic and natural laws have been discovered like the gravity and evolution of life on earth. Still, there are many other laws which operate, and we aren't unaware about it. The existence of God is one of those undiscovered cosmic laws, but is considered as a belief and a tool of faith used to discern and detect the great cosmic riddle. Whether we discover or not the existences of God, it will hardly affect the faith of people in God, whether we believe God exists or not, God will not cease to live in the minds of the people in the near future, so let's be realistic and refine the definition of God realistically.

God is everywhere he talks and behaves like a man except he has supernatural powers, men have none, but can acquire through a continuous evolutionary process. Therefore, the purpose of human life is to become good, a synonym of God. We have no other choice but to accept this and relinquish our animalistic instincts and move towards spiritual realities. Let us believe God exists as 'Cosmic Consciousness', from this premise we can develop a perception, to guide us towards goodness. On this foundation of belief we can build the edifice of knowledge, leading to spiritual progress. There is some power which creates life and keeps it going in a certain predictable manner, there must be some power behind the universe, we do not know what that power is, nor do we know what the agenda of our assumption is for.

During a journey, trekking unknown places, we need an escort, as we are not familiar with the track. Similarly, the feeling of God's presence as an escort ameliorates the tedious path of the spiritual seeker, making his strenuous progress appear effortless. The mere assurance of an escort personifies strength, vigor, enterprise, and success, making difficult situations endurable. So, mere knowledge is not the end of all. We cannot capture the concept of God with words, feelings or thoughts, finite efforts cannot acquire infinity, and at the same time, we cannot reach God without this knowledge. Such is the illogicality of a paradoxical mystery called God.

It is a fact that in an argument on the existence or non-existence of God, doubt and mistrust invariably wins. For instance,

the main argument about the existence of God is that there must be someone who has created the world if everything has been created then who has created God? To know this answer one has to go away from the mind and the intellect, to enter the realm of the unknown. Therefore, to believe in the existence of God in absolute terms is really hard, relatively it is easy to prove the non-existence of God.

Natural elements cannot conjure human thoughts so the idea of God is as we are. The whole universe is as we are. God and the universe is because man is. Without man there is no God, no universe, there is nothingness. We need God to identify our source. The mystery of God wouldn't have existed if the world wasn't a mystery. The universe is the mirror of the human mind and God is the mirror of human thought. All human beings are a part of the whole cosmic superstructure when religions made an effort to trace the origin of man from the beginning of the universe, they failed and created myths. However, with the passage of time old myths wear out and new spring up.

God is universal. Call it cosmic consciousness or a cosmological constant. Even than God's reality is a hypothetical suggestion. However, if we think positively, with no doubts, than we find a beauty in the idea of God, as it's the forerunner of all progressive ideologies. There is no purpose, no destination in life, so the idea of God serves to create multiple purposes to make life meaningful and momentous. Fear is a strong emotion. When we seek the mysterious, the fear of the unknown becomes the strongest apprehension, because we lack the strength to face the unidentified, the unfamiliar and the unheard. Fear is the cause that makes the idea of God sustainable.

In optical illusions brain conjure up numerous shapes and patterns. Actually, nothing like this exists in physical terms. Brain functions as a pattern-seeking, as an identification and detection mechanism. These patterns are not necessarily arranged in a logical sequential manner, but have random access in order to build a broader and bigger picture magically like God, and thereafter seek the meaning of these patterns, even though it cannot logically exist to explain or describe the fundamental patterns of reality. This is known as the reality of the unreal.

The whole cosmos is a single set of connection of matter and energy constantly snapping in and out. Therefore, unification, merger, coming together of objects or moving in to become as one, is a common feature in space. Likewise In the same way, we continuously seek union with God the controller of the cosmic network. All religions and philosophies seek one thing, the union with the divine. A person who wakes up in life wants to be free and looks for help, while his heart longs to establish a contact with the supreme, which comes by accepting faith in God. He knows whatever happens, happens for the good. The battle of life is tough to fight, without the mental support of a protector, real or imaginary it doesn't matter, as long, the show can pull off well.

The entire phenomenon of creation is from descent to ascent of consciousness in various forms. That's why there is greater intimacy between human consciousness and cosmic consciousness, like a father-child relationship, and the emotional bonding. The deepest connection comes when descent and ascent fuse, then we see the idea of God face to face. Then the love for unreal God looks real, Gods love assumes assurance and immense reverence and glimpse of divinity is imagined, one surrenders to become aware, and then the entire creation comes alive as godliness, piousness and holiness. Can imagination manifest reality? Maybe it can or maybe not.

Relationship with God gives solace to people and some find comfort at the place of worship. It's up to people to decide their own ways of remembering God. Frightfully, we grow countless fears in our mind arising from our insecurities and uncertain life, resulting in sorrow and suffering. Here, faith in God gives us self-assurance and protection. Material happiness is fleeting so we need to develop inner happiness. Pressures of daily living and the inability to find solutions to problems are the cause of tension and worries. We must do the best we can, and leave the rest in the hands of God. This is a fine way to stay free from fuss. It is a situation where faith in God comes to rescue. God even calms down our psychosomatic imbalances, necessary to deal, with bad situations.

When rationalists expose false beliefs and notions, they poke and punch the cherished illusions of believers, a part of the faith

followers mind knows deep down his conscience that God is not real, but their need to believe is incredibly powerful. That's why a majority of believers do not question and continue to believe in God, had it not been so the whole view of the world would have changed. Unable to cope with the realities of life, man invented weird and wonderful worlds, hoping to find change, comfort and contentment. We certainly need the benefits that scientific investigation brings, then why do we resist the limitations it imposes on the flight of our imagination.

When it comes to God is it necessary to know God exists or not. Now, let us be honest and admit we need a God. We deliberately hide this fact, preferring same name with a new definition. In the core of life comes critical times when hope, faith, assurance and God is necessary. On such occasions, we bargain with God and strike a deal, "if you give me what I want, I will make a sacrifice". Reassurance lay in our presumptuous confidence that God will grant our wishes. Refusal to believe would camouflage the need of God, hope, faith and assurance. We don't know if God exists, but we do know we need him, this is undoubtedly is the most invaluable concept created by man to face and handle with confidence the desperate and intense moments in life.

If there was no God, we should create one. Most people are uncomfortable without God. It is not a matter of belief or non-belief. It is a way of life one wishes to follow. Most people are comfortable with the idea of God. One doesn't understand how the world functions, but there's is a sense of mystery that's exciting around it. It gives a sense of wonder to unearth. To be rational is wonderful, but human beings are not rational, irrationality is what makes us wonderful, living with a sense of surprise and not losing it as life goes on. Cosmological mysteries are the zing and zest of human life. God adds color, spice, seasoning and flavor to cosmic mysteries.

There are questions with no answers. How does faith help us? Anything can happen anytime, life is uncertain, relationships are uncertain, success is uncertain, health is uncertain, only death is certain. Our belief in God is a response to our vulnerability. Faith makes us more human, and faith should not make us dogmatic or agnostic. Instead, faith should channelize

a positive energy so that society benefits from it. Faith should comfort people and not antagonize them. God does not decide for us, he has given us mind that can use reason to examine good and bad. So, if there is destiny, there is free will too. We all need to remember that God has his place in cosmological order and human being has his place on planet earth. In this configuration, we may continue to have faith in God, but certainly not by ignoring the ground realities of life on earth.

Some say God is, some say he is not, others say they are not sure about it. All have participated earnestly in this debate and walked out desperately from the same argument, being repeated over and over again, from time immemorial, without any collective conclusion. So let us stop this discussion once and for all. The longing for God is important indeed, whether he meets us or not, and the idea of seeking him is beneficial too. On a pilgrimage, we gain to discover ourselves, the world, universe, and the cosmos and learn the ways to regulate our inner being with our surroundings and environment. If this journey is so wonderful and useful, the hope to meet God would surely be precious, even if, it happens that God doesn't meet because he is lost forever. Then who is there to testify for whom. Maybe God knows or he doesn't know too.

We struggle hard to obtain a college degree, a good job, get married, have children, acquire material possessions and wealth, believing all this will guarantee a lifelong happiness. When we get all that we had aspired, education, occupation, matrimony, kids, and riches, still we find no happiness, after working so hard, at the cost of wasted strength and health, just to fulfill social status, to gain happiness from competitive distress. Being rich and famous, is an inflated ego trip, being happy is the essence of life. Seeking God is bliss. Whether God meets or not, is not essential, but the journey to meet him, surely is more helpful to us, than meeting him. Let humanity wait no more for God to come on earth. Let man become better by acquiring godlike qualities like love, compassion etc.

THE GOD PERSONA

God is everywhere and far away in the interstellar space, an

unfishable network that encompasses the whole. The whole signifies limitation but open-ended infinity doesn't, God is a cosmic constant where infinite is finite. God is breath, God is existence, God is life-force, and God is consciousness. That means everything seen, felt, understood and experienced is God. Everything lives in him. He lives in everything. He is the whole thing. Being a part of 'That' whole thing are all living being and all non-living things, it is difficult to grasp 'That' as the whole being or the whole thing. Perhaps it's Just like the ocean is to the fish, and air to the human beings.

The inconceivable God is faceless neither seen here, nor seen there or elsewhere, it's invisible, a mystery, a magic and a miracle. A presence felt as silence and stillness, like eternity is far away from human understanding. God riddle lies in the womb of infinity and comes back like an echo or human reflection from a mirror. That's why God speaks and looks like a human being. Philosophers intellectualize the God concept and cosmologist investigates the cosmic functioning. Faith in God and cosmic realities are two different things. So, it is important to know what 'Life and Living' are, rather than waste time, on how God looks and speaks.

When a mirror reflects light from the sun, the light in the mirror is same, but the mirror is not the sun, likewise manifestation of man has the same light of God consciousness but man consciousness is not God consciousness. There is no way a man can unearth the immensity of the Sun or Cosmic Consciousness - God. We can feel the Sun by the power of its heat. Similarly, there are moments when we feel closer to Godliness, a glimpse that comes as a sudden feeling of unconditional love. It is love with great intensity that feels like bursting into pieces to scatter all over as oneness. These moments come in a thoughtless state when we come closer to God nature.

God is presence of consciousness, which constantly looks over us as a 'Seer'. The derivative of Consciousness is 'Seer' that never talks or guides, it only sees as a watcher or a witness, but our 'Conscience' speaks and guides us what is right and what is wrong. Our relationship with conscience is secret and so is our sub-consciousness called the secret mind. We talk

and hear the inner voice. During internal talk everybody needs someone who is bigger than him, to whom he can address his personal issues and seek guidance, God fulfills this role, and with faith we draw strength from this source, and God ultimately becomes the foundation of our support system.

Religions have failed to describe God, and are still struggling with the definition of God. With no clarity people see God in dawn and twilight, in nature, in animals, the wind, and the air, in you and me, no matter what we want to believe as God. Too many odd, flawed and idiosyncrasy concepts of God are illustrations of 'Whatever you think as God is right'. This leads to too many Gods, a symptom of an incurable sickening syndrome.

Everything in space is in motion. If everything is in motion, there ought to be something that makes it move. What is that? Know that as God, as the stillness of a seer. All cosmological processes when they reach its optimum level, decline to merge into the pool of stillness, and again from this stillness, another cycle of orbit starts, everything is a part of this grand process. This stillness is silence, found in the gaps of thoughts; this stillness is sheer feeling of emptiness. Don't fill this gap increase its duration. These intervals are an invitation to transform. This is the domain of silent prayers, this is the domain of God's presence, and this is the domain of eternal consciousness.

The eternal laws of nature are akin to God's personality, character, qualities, and temperament. For Instance, nothing is absolute, nothing is permanent, and everything is interdependent in the cosmos. In the field of interdependence, there is a constant churning of activity. All forms of living and non-living are produced by this drama of doing, which is impermanent and ever-changing, and carried forward from one form to another. All movement and motions are cyclic and repetitive. Nothing in the cosmos is linear. There is recycling and the reappearance of phenomena. Each form, the moment it appears, starts losing its solidity, and slips in a perpetual burnout, to be replenished again, in some another form.

God as a 'being' is considered the creator or source of everything that exists and is spoken of, in terms of perfect attributes, for instance, infinitude, immutability, eternity, goodness,

knowledge, omniscience and omnipotence. Most religions assign God certain characteristics that are understood either literally or metaphorically, such as divine will, love, anger, and forgiveness. Aversion to idolatry is also explained. Stating no creature-cum-human can represent the creator. But on the other hand, holy scriptures tell that human being is made in the image of God. God also appears to promise and threaten, God can be angry and even jealous like a man, but God's primary attributes are righteousness, justice, mercy, truth, and faithfulness, which strengthen the foundation of morality. God is understood as 'I am who I am'. In past, we had God's incarnate son, apostles, prophets and avatars, who appeared on earth as human beings, with birth certificates, stating born on earth and made with flesh.

Vedic text, includes both, the idea of a personal God, and the idea of an impersonal or suprapersonal, absolute 'Holy Being'. Each God has his or her own role to play. Three principal Gods the 'Trimurti' creates preserves and destroys the world. In Buddhism Gods are real, but they are not the ultimate reality. The ultimate reality is the impersonal 'Cosmic Order'. The cosmic destiny is considered superior to Gods. Buddha himself was transformed into a God, even though the historical Buddha had ceased. Then we have Gods who manifested as humans for some particular social purpose, with massive and multitude power, local and limited, friendly and frightening.

In the vast unframed picture of the universe, it is difficult to visualize the creator, so vast and great that it is, beyond the human mind to comprehend or see it through human eyes. Man can realize the creator at the level of his intellect. It is only by contemplating and deep thinking over various signs scattered around in the cosmos that one can imagine something like God. People have lived and died for God, Allah, and Ishwar, and continue to do so now, and shall continue in future too. It is true we cannot replace God, with any other imaginary idea as superior as God, so it's hard to discard God. Are we born to live with the concept of God, Allah, and Ishwar forever?

Human beings are born irrational so a false belief is the inevitable product of the human mind. We are naturally hardwired

to believe in mental constructs, like faith and the supernatural and we instinctively bridge the missing links by devising methods, which are real or imaginary, to help make sense out of nonsense. Irrational beliefs are a feature of our imagination, a part of our thinking process, and cannot be wished away. We are gullible and prone to believe in ridiculous things easier than truth, if we evaluate false notions, we might be better served, it is easy to blame ignorance, but there is something else at work. After all, we are not all ignorant people, who know nothing about truth, or regarding half-truth and concerning lies.

Minorities envision and envisage the idea of God. Otherwise, the majority of people cannot live in the world without God, Allah, and Ishwar. Unaware, most of us enter into bogus beliefs and phony practices, where a strange way of thinking works. From an early age, children develop ways to understand the world, even though they do not understand the laws of nature. At times, the child places unreasonable importance to an object he wants, and won't accept a replacement. How can this child be different, when he grows up as an adult? Knowledge is learnt, skills are acquired, and discipline enforced, while false concepts seem to be based on human instinct, intuition or impulse, and we believe in them because we don't know anything better than that. People need a belief system, just to believe that something like God is real.

There is a connection between 'Creation' and the 'Creator'. Human beings think and talk so there is a continual dialogue with creator. It is not a mystical experience but an internal conversation. Every human being prefers to address God an unexplained phenomena inwardly in the privacy of personal domain, without the fear of being condemned or crucified. We all are an inseparable part of an all pervading energy the formless and invisible 'Air', we all breathe to survive. That's how invisible cosmic energies are spread all over the interstellar space. There is no disagreement on this conclusion of truth. So, it is enough for us to know that some unseen energy like God, Allah and Ishwar exist too. Human life is not to waste time trying to define the unknowable mysteries of the universe. Let the cosmologist do it, surely not the priest, the mullah or the pundit.

CONCLUSION

We are confronted with questions that seem to have no answers and situations where every question we answer leads to another question. We must seek the truth any which way. If we believe in nothing, and if, we question everything, then where are we, where do we stand? The never-ending space is a blank map. Explorations to reveal unknown areas in space are done little by little. We can never see the totality of the whole space, unless we guess or take for granted that certain things exist and persist outside the range of human experience. We draw on what we have learnt to make assumptions as plausible and credible as it can be. The more we learn, the better we are positioned to handle the probability of profiling reality, which is not too often sure or definite.

A lot of time has been wasted, trying to realize something which is imaginary, draining all permutations and combinations, to make it look real. When we build a concept, we apply a method to prove it. If it fails, we try again, using a different method. When old Gods are not relevant, then surely we must find new ones to replace them. As long there is mystery, we will keep on trying to reveal God on the huge canvas of space, judging not with empty illustrations. There is one reality in the realm of the known, but there exist other realms with different realities. So, how do we accept or deny God? Since, we do not know, let us not presume. Let God remain a mystery till the ultimate reality unfolds. All superstitions and suppositions, all signs and symbols are misleading.

People think if God exists then they should find him. To a non-believers, prove the presence of God, only then they will believe, otherwise not. It means that anything that is not within their sense perception does not exist. If we say, there exists nothing beyond our senses is it correct? To know what we do not know is a constant learning process, so one should follow this process, and know it, by personal experience. If one were to choose between 'God' and 'Random Cause' as the origin of existence, both options can be selected either way, because both are not verifiable, then what difference does it make? We have to understand other aspects of existence beyond what we

know, if God concept can lead us there, where is the harm to tag with the idea of God.

Several dimensions co-exist in time-space frames, therefore inconsistencies exist. People believe in the state of pure consciousness they can communicate with higher cosmic dimensions. Is this real or just an idea? The truth is that our life revolves around the mind. Can we rise above the limitations of our sense-perceptions? Handicapped by human limitations, the opening of third eye, God grace, and divine judgment are concepts conceived to see God, hard to visualize. We live in a world of thoughts, yet our ideas know the boundless. Amidst contractions, it is difficult to control or train the mind. If people find easy to connect with spirituality and shun superstition, then they can dwell on the subtle aspects of life, without the assistance of the priest, the mullah or the pundit or by visiting the places of worship the church, the mosque or the temple.

Human beings are living under manmade concepts like society, education, institutions, roads, houses, money etc. All material things are addressed through human mental constructs, if the mystical or the spiritual is addressed by the mental construct like God, what is wrong in it? Our existence is based on concepts. In fact, the whole world is structured on human concepts, a manmade world. Not natural but mind-marshaled is our living. Even God concept is manmade. It is a beautiful as other concepts created by the human mind to unravel the mysteries surrounding us. So, if we choose to reject the God concept, we stand to contradict all other manmade concepts as well.

The time has come not to reject, but to re-examine the idea of Gods created by religions, and give a new meaning to the concept of God that is 'Cosmic Consciousness'. This new classification of God will result in the emergence of new spiritual standards, which will in turn result in averting, the killing of a man by a man, in the name of God, and thus restore peace and harmony on planet earth. New meaning of God means a fresh understanding, and cause to spur spirituality on earth. Yesterdays God is in the image of man, tomorrow's God is cosmic consciousness, present everywhere and in everyone, the sum total of everything that constitutes the extraordinary process

called life.

Consciousness is counted as the furthest post in the interstellar space. Consciousness has no border, no exterior. Consciousness has its underlayer the substratum. Consciousness alone can know consciousness. The way to it is inaccessible by human senses and intellect. Because of its indivisibility and its limitlessness, it is termed as cosmic consciousness. Individual consciousness is 'soul' and cosmic consciousness is God. God consciousness is further than human thoughts, beyond the man-made words, and the highest mystery. There is a Sufi saying 'I searched for God and found only myself. I searched for myself and found only God'.

CHAPTER 14

Prayers

The act of adoring, admiration, and affection

ORIGIN OF WORSHIP / PRAYER

Worship is a natural feeling arising from an inherent fear psychosis human beings suffer, which is a part of their normal survival instinct. Man worshiped fire, rain, storms, and pleaded protection, especially during the Stone Age. Later, man developed the ability to build houses and create various safety nets. Praying is a desire to communicate with God, nature or some mysterious power, something ethereal, beyond the natural habitat of mankind. This is all about sustaining mans survival, so there is hardly any harm in worshiping. Prayers actually help to visualize support systems or security nets, which eventually brings solutions to human problems. In fact, human progress hinges on the fringes of a protective psychosomatic shield, which supposedly safeguards them, prayers strengthen support of an imaginary God to man.

To the Hindus praying is a path, which involves little effort, yet gives great rewards, by the chanting of mantras over and over again in praise of God. Even prophet Mohammad advised his disciples to keep their lips moist by repeating Allah's name. Various forms of prayers appear in the Bible. Every religion pushes the agenda of praying so as to cultivate faith followers, and condition their minds into a lifelong commitment to their religion. Buddha devised 'Vipassana' a prayer done in silence by observing the rhythm of breathing. Cosmic consciousness or God cannot understand manmade languages. So please allow the author to tell the readers that they must 'Learn to communicate with God in Silence'. Don't believe him but experience it yourself and see the difference.

WHY DO WE PRAY?

Prayer is essentially a religious act. In petitioning the pleas, we speculate to address the unknown and the unseen, the divine

presence to grant our prayers, about 'That' we heard from ancestors, and know through mythology and miracles mentioned in myths. We live in constant fear. It is out of fear we worship. We felt secure in mother's womb, when we were pushed out to face the world alone, we experienced tremendous insecurity. To insulate ourselves against insecurity, we seek protection through prayers, money, power and position.

According to Indian religious beliefs, each era has a prescribed mode of worship for emancipation and deliverance from the cycle of life and death. In early ages, the modes of prayers were arduous like sacrifice, penance, rituals, and worship. In the present age 'Kaliyug' mere repetition of God's name will take one across the treacherous ocean of 'Samsara'. In this age mankind, even if, entrenched in materialistic life, can just by taking mere name of God, Allah or Ishwar, one can easily seek salvation.

Words have power. They are the auditory secret signs. That convey something more, than the plain meaning they represent. Simply by saying 'Cheese' or 'Chocolate' in the ear of a person, can produce instantaneous reaction like the salivary glands watering the mouth of the listener. If ordinary words have so much power, imagine what sacred words linked with God by its divine alliance, can turn out to be the receptacle of God. Then dwelling on the name of God is like dwelling on God himself. His attributes and his glory automatically come to the mind of the follower. By repeating God's name, mind catches up slowly, the magic and magnetism of divinity hidden in God's name, and then all bodily glands activate differently, to produce a pious feeling, to purify the mind and the body.

Psychologically, when people are drawn to a church or a chapel, a synagogue or a mosque or a temple with a heavy heart, hearing hymns in these places of worship, can alter their frame of mind, and unload the burdens of life they carry on their shoulders. So, people swarm the places of worship when they are undergoing difficulties in life. Prayers can be different and difficult to classify. The most popular prayers are the praises of God. Besides another form of prayers include, appeal to forgive sins, seek favors, help overcome troubles, get jobs and promo-

tions, to conclude profitable business deals, win court cases. The sick seek better health and people scared of dying pray for to delay departure. The act of praying is a request to God to fulfill all desires.

Why do we pray? Some pray for good health, someone wants to become wealthy, someone for a long life, some for the safety of children, it's an endless list for the fulfillment of countless desires. Prayers are backed by faith. Faith plays an important role in prayers being answered or not. With faith there is hope that prayers will be answered now or sometime later, but the question is do we know what is good for us? We ask God for things that we want, but are those things best for us? The essence of pure faith is to put everything in the hands of God, with a prayer 'Let thy will be done'. If our prayers are answered that is good, if our prayers are declined even then that is good. When we pray from the purity of our heart and clean mind, by and large, God's will coincides with our desires. However, trusting God's will is the best for us, and this is what a proper prayer is.

Despite best efforts, success in one way or another often evades us. There are things over which we have no control. Then what should be done to attain success? When we seek cosmic help, then prayer is the means to get this help from God. Prayers reveal one's limitation, and the acceptance of a limitless God. That's why God is seen as benevolent. Humans are gifted with freewill. Self-effort is the best help to navigate ourself on the path of life. Most of us remember and pray God when in trouble and desperation and see no ray of hope. Praying to fulfill one's desires is more common than the wish for one's own spiritual uplift. For material or spiritual success, prayer is indispensable because there are a number of obstacles on both paths not easily tread without prayers.

Majority of the people in the world, have sometime in their life resorted to prayers for the fulfillment of their desire or to seek a solution to a problem, which means that prayers comes naturally, as a petition for help from God. Prayer is a great pacifier. It alleviates anxiety and relieves tension by providing hope and the strength to tackle the problems of life and living. It is a power to transform hopelessness into hopefulness. Prayers can

bring change in the life of the people. Prayer for repentance and confession of misconduct helps us to change to be better. There is something in cosmos and moments of connection with God, brings help. Our consciousness is present here, while a cosmic consciousness is present here, there and everywhere.

An articulated sound produced by the resonance of words is chanting. The sound is created as a result of striking, which reverberates into a musical tone that has a beginning and an end. But if there is a sound which exists unstuck and unheard, then that 'Unstuck Sound' has neither a beginning nor an end, that sound is the echo of the cosmos the 'Anhad Naad' which is enduring. Cosmic consciousness is the sound of silence. The audibility of sound waves depends on its frequency and velocity, whether a sound wave is audible or inaudible it depends on the medium through which it travels. Silent chanting creates a kind of vibrations which flows in a rhythmic wave pattern as a soundless sound. Silent prayers are more effective and praised by sages.

The impulse to pray is natural. What is important is not the physical act of praying or the mental state. Yoga helps to balance the body, mantras to calm the mind. Prayers are in words, words mean nothing, we should worship in such a way that our prayer comes from the heart. God does not listen to manmade languages. God connects with the deepest feelings we express lovingly from the bottom of our heart. We seek God's intervention in our affairs, hoping God will alter the course of our life or create something for the better for us. We pray for abundance or help for financial, domestic or livelihood problems. We are in fact, sending prayers to God all the time, from morn till night, from birth till death. Prayers are a means of unwinding worries and seeking pardon for our wrong deeds, we so often do in our life knowing and unknowingly.

Prayer is an important part of human experience. It's a process by which we navigate our lives. Life is a prayer in a sense that it's a continuous request to God to give us, what we want. Praying involves a planned activity, kneeling down, lighting a candle, sitting in meditation or twirling the prayer beads or performing some outward or inner rituals. Prayer begins at the

moment of birth and ends with death. Mankind is endowed with the mental capacity to visualize, fantasize and imagine. But for things to happen, we must create the right situation. If we want to grow a plant, we need right conditions for growing the plant. If we sit near a plant and pray, flowers will not bloom, so right conditions, like proper soil and exact use of water is essential to grow a plant. This is the basic perceptive, how the laws of nature work. Therefore, we need to balance our faith with the laws of nature that governs us.

The mind has an enormous intellectual reach, a proactive process that moves us into action, how it makes us act has no scientific explanation, except that it happens the way it happens. The mind imagines and provides fodder to actualize goals. We dream initially, what we achieve later. Circumstances are determined by what we believe and faith develops from our inability to perceive. So, human efforts lean towards innovation, to make use of novelty and newness as a natural human inclination, invoked frequently in prayers. Everything we have in life was invoked in one way or the other. Conscious invocation is a prayer. Style of supplication includes visualization, gratitude and acceptance. Experience that comes from what we believe and the way we view the world through our core beliefs and how we respond to a situation. That on which we instinctively focus our life is what we see as reality, but the spontaneous view of the world is quite different from it.

Familiarity breeds contempt, is a maxim, which refers to a believer, who while praying to one God, wishes to pray another God simultaneously. Ancillary to this epigram is that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Absence makes us forget the one we love, but there is always a desire, a longing, a waiting, a subtle pain to meet love, which is more intense than conjugal love. Such longing is a divine love to seek God. To a seeker, separation is greater than meeting God he knows he cannot meet. So icons are part of the Vedic culture, deities appear in images, symbolic or imagined forms as thirty-three million Gods and Goddesses, everyone can pick a God of his choice. If the supply of Gods is short, the seeker can invent his own God. These God forms are initially necessary, to reach the level where

seeker can understand the abstract, the faceless, the formless, and absolute nothingness. Attraction to various forms of Gods and Goddesses is not ill-placed rather it addresses a fundamental issue that the images of God are more than what meets the eye, pointing to the higher cosmic dimensions.

FUTILITY OF PRAYERS

Our faith in the forgiveness of sins through prayer and repentance is responsible for the increase of sin and decay of virtue in this world. No sin can be remitted till one has suffered for it. The world prevents us from sinning and advocates walking on the path of righteousness.

Blind beliefs impede progress. Believers leave everything to God who is elusive. This slackens their efforts and makes them lazy. Naturally, if they don't act, they can achieve nothing. People must not leave their destiny on the whims of Gods. Instead, they must take control of their life and worldly affairs. The trouble of the believer is his unthinking faith, rather questioning blind belief in imaginary beings. He resorts to prayers and rituals, at the cost of hard work, to realize his wishes. Prayers cannot end human miseries. By believing in himself man has changed the face of earth by astonishing inventions and discoveries and has reached the Moon and Mars is not far.

Atheists say people pray to a powerless God. Prayer is selfish because worshipers are always asking God to give them something in exchange for their devotion. People who keep fasts also do so with a wish in their mind. These are the ways to pressurize God, to obtain what they want. While people with money, fame, and fortune beg God, not to take away from them what they have. Is there any virtue in praying for material things and money?

Without taking medicine and merely repeating the name of medicine no disease can be cured. Similarly, repeating holy words none can attain salvation. Knowing God is a transcendental reality. Are we not contradicting ourselves by assuming holy words can fill the gap between man and God? Cosmic consciousness or God is non-verbal. We connect with God through the force of our profound feelings and the deep power of silence

and stillness, not thru man-made meaningless words. Please remember this important information at the time we opt to pray.

In the present competitive scenario, prayers are the means to attract material possessions, rather than to find a psychological thrust to boost a self-support system. God is 'That' overwhelming charisma of cosmic consciousness, which works beyond the grasp of human understanding, hence pleasing God with dance, songs and drama is meaningless. Awareness creates complete connectivity with divinity and living beings, without this connectivity, we are not open to divine grace, even as it's present within us all the time.

Rituals are a part of prayers practiced by ignorant people. Human intelligence has developed sufficiently in the digital age. Therefore, the practice of performing rituals is receding, because it is no more relevant now. Earlier people derived psychological advantage from rituals, now real benefits are available through technology. Rituals are no more required to prevent earthquakes, floods, and droughts or financial or physical problems.

Worship has become a chore, and our heart isn't there. While praying we are distracted, our thoughts stray on something else, maybe at that time we are thinking about our office or some other incident in our life. When we become aware of this unholy transgression, we fear inviting the wrath of God. We perform rituals regularly, with our mind elsewhere. We fear our desires will remain unfulfilled, we simply cannot focus on prayers or rituals, we have no awareness of what we are doing, we do it like automated robots, we pray out of fear or greed, and we do so because we are conditioned to do it. When will we grow out of our fear psychosis? And be what we are.

We don't have to pray to God for our welfare. The energy inherent in human beings can be canalized to empower ourselves. Repeating mantras is useless. Life is our prayer. Prayer is an important part of our experience. It is the process by which we create our lives. Life is a prayer in the sense that it is a continuous visualization to choose and desire and rituals is the invoking of our latent potentials to open up. Life is a constant prayer. Prayer does not begin with kneeling down or lighting a candle

or sitting in meditation or picking up prayer beads or performing some rituals. Prayer begins from birth and ends with death. We learn that birth and death are the beginning and end of an ongoing experience, through which we move in the cycle of life and death, over and over again.

Avoid worshiping the authority of scriptures. Prayer doesn't mean the performance of rites and ceremonies. This turns our mind outwards, far away from ourselves, to the world of Gods. We should rely on and understand the great gift God has given us, the gift of our ability to create what we want, our words are creative, our thoughts are creative, and our actions are creative, certainly more potent and more effective than a request made to God as a prayer. Far more is the world's misery caused by our stupidity and blind faith, rather than the wickedness inflicted by others. We need to assess the value of knowledge and the evil of ignorance. Because knowledge and good conduct are essential for our salvation, so work out your salvation without any superfluous support. Religion is outdated and unsuited to our current needs.

God give me this, God give me that. What we are seeking in prayer is not God. What we are seeking is happiness. Our aspiration is comfort, wealth, power, and pleasure. We think God can grant us 'things'. Seeking protection, materialist possessions, our greed and our fears are the basis of our prayers. First, know God and then pray, we pray without knowing God. Learn to pray not out of fear or greed. Being prayerful is an extremely beautiful state of inner being, which awakens our hidden potentiality, to act righteously, for progressive development, to regulate our lives. Illusive is the theory of God, so let us not rely on God, but on ourselves, and strengthen ourselves to overcome our weaknesses, and then dare to confront life head-on.

Idols are the representative form of God meant for idol worshippers, they use idols to focus and to pinpoint their concentration on God. Worship of God is ingrained in human heart. Fear of death, fear of unknown, material gains and salvation rate is high in the psyche of the worshipers. Those who worship out of sheer love for God are very few. Idols, temples, religious scriptures are just meant to support and help a seeker during

the initial stages of their spiritual development. We should get rid of these foolish notions, belief in words given by the cleric or rituals and superstitions. The choice before us is whether we should continue to be tormented by the vagaries of life? Or be rocked to and fro by our circumstances till life is over? Or should we strive to fulfill the ultimate aim of human life, the realization of the highest truth.

God is not a slot machine where we insert a prayer and out comes what we want as the gift of life, a lady love, a good job, a promotion, plenty of money, a big house etc, etc. It is best to keep God out of it, and try to get it, with hard work. We should not be dependent on divine grace, but put in our best efforts to get what we want in life. No miracles will happen. The direction we take depends on individual decisions and people around us. Each person has to work out his own salvation. God has heard our prayers. He has given us 'Freewill' to achieve our mission, what more do we need now. So why keep God busy with prayers, let him take rest now.

We keep asking God something or the other all the time. It is like saying we know better than God what we really want and what is actually good for us. In fact, what we are saying is, whatever there already is, is not enough for us. It's like saying God something is wrong with your creation. This is no trust but mistrust in God. For us trust or prayer is not asking things from God, it is thankfulness and gratitude for what is already there. Both sorrow and happiness are growth engines of human life so whatever happens, happens for the best.

ARE PRAYERS ANSWERED? WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PRAYER?

Prayers basically are a desperate call for help. Age old traditions of prayer suggest repeating the name of God in the form of praise to please him to help out. Prayers are rendered in different ways, the name of God is repeated loudly or prayer is whispered mentally or feelings from the core of the heart. Prayers lead the wandering mind to know the deep stillness that rests within the inner being. The eventual prayer is the one in which we are no longer aware that we are praying. Like food nourishes the body, prayer nourishes the mind.

Prayer gives strength, even for a moment, if we turn our mind to God; it's enough for us to experience solace and serenity and the joy and happiness of being alive. Prayers have a beneficial effect, a sense of well being is felt, it can complete change our outlook and our personality. A made-up meeting with God keeps one in constant repair. Prayers instill positive thoughts, removes jealousy, greed, anger, envy, and anxiety, the cause of our troubles, it is important to pray not only for ourselves but for all, this leads to social harmony and brotherhood.

Chanting of mantras or the resonance of meaningless words helps us to connect with the source of creation. Sound and music is a powerful force, we can heal ourselves with light-nerve soothing music, which is beneficial, and not the cacophony of loud noises, which aggravates stress as a health hazard. Chanting mantras cure and calm the body and mind. Mantras are vibrations. Prayers unlock hidden energy centers and help to dissolve the blockages. It is an invisible tool to shape a better life, using the resources within. It brings transformation then we have no choice but to shed religious rigidity or else nothing is going to happen. Rigidity is caused when someone sticks to his point of view, than it becomes a source of misery. Stubbornness is a form of identification, learn to de-identify.

The most powerful prayer comes from gratitude and the ability to converse with conscience. The conversation with conscience is what God wants us to do, that is the real prayer. By this technique, we can find solutions to our problems. In this way God communicates with us. Therefore, don't accept God to answer all unreasonable prayers, we are the creation of God, a child of God, and not a hapless beggar. Pray in the spirit of self-abnegation, in a state of pure consciousness then cosmic consciousness or God is ready to connect with us, if we are properly aligned, with purity of heart, then we are bestowed with blessings.

We take credit for whatever good happens, but if something goes wrong, we blame God for it. God is great if he answers our prayers. God is even greater if he does not make our prayers come true, because he knows how bad our prayers can be to us. If we create the right conditions it will happen, if not it doesn't

matter how much efforts we put, things are not going to happen. So, through prayers, we can strengthen our determination, to give a new turn and direction to life. Prayer is necessary to subdue our ego. Prayer is an excellent exercise to cleanse our conscience. Prayers safeguard and check us from indulging in bad deeds.

Prayer to God, Allah or Ishwar is equally effective, yet intolerance among religions as a social malaise cannot be denied. But at least in our prayers, we can stop being biased to single out God, Allah, and Ishwar because in our private domain there is no threat from the priest, mullah and the pundit. Worship and adoration when is not directed to film stars, rock idols or sportspersons can fulfill a higher fundamental need. However, some people's tendency to revere them needs to be redirected and dovetailing this natural love towards God, Allah or Ishwar is surely helpful to us.

Chanting cleanses the heart of all obstructions revealing the ultimate reality that lies within, observance of silent meditation is a proper preparation for prayer, it's time to become quiet, when the mind is calm and clear before communion with God, it focuses on the idea of a living God, who manifests itself in the act of creation, revelation, and redemption. People affirm the existence of God, and remembering him brings solace to millions of people.

Prayer is a great way to distract from the larger issue. Distraction can be therapeutic and sometimes helps us to find a correct perspective to solve the riddle of life but the danger starts when the very thing that distracts tends to blur our life from reality. Devotion activates our higher centers, purifies our emotions and thoughts, allows finer vibrations to flow into our lives, opens the intuitive eye and makes us experience many consequential coincidences occurring in our life, seeing the mysterious hand of God.

Where there is no God than whom should we offer our prayers? Prayers look from the window of weakness. If a man prays for that what he has not achieved, for that he hasn't attained so far, by the grace of God, and not by his own self-efforts. Then he wouldn't know what to pray for, and yet he may

feel the need to pray, in this situation just have an inner talk. Pray to awaken the soul, to open the mind, to cleanse the heart and give spiritual sight to see to God, the inner path is the path on which one must walk or do whatever one wants to do.

People pray for help in times of trouble or during aspired moments. It's to have personal and spiritual advantage to know how to pray effectively. Effective prayer produce efficient procedures and processes to act that removes our focus from illusions and allows us to clearly see and experience that which is desirable and liberating. Prayer unfolds a behavioral pattern. One may pray to experience communion with God, for better understanding or for divine intervention to uplift, or pray for world peace or for the prosperity of all or pray for a world to become free from wars, poverty and disease.

Saints and spiritual masters pray in order to remain open and responsive to God, Allah and Ishwar irrespective of their religion. Working people in business or in public or private service must pray, in order to render true service to people they serve and for doing business honestly. Children and young adults can pray for emotional maturity, righteousness and for spiritual growth to lead helpful lives. Prayers fail and stop working, if we do not pray pouring out our heart or surrender our ego, as only our deep feelings and pure mind can make a significant difference.

People do not like to follow what others tell them to do. They like to work out their own destiny and relationship with God. Desiring what is contrary to the working of nature, wanting to experience the surreal, not penetrating deep enough into God consciousness the source from which all things flow, then praying is a futile exercise, a sincere effort and a self-surrendered mode of prayer without seeking except the love of God is a right prayer.

As and when our awareness of a separate 'Selfhood' or ego decreases, then and there the realization of the true 'Self', soul or consciousness occurs then our relationship with God is enhanced. The tendency of cosmic creative forces is to flow freely through us. Our false selfhood or ego prevents, and other interfering mental and emotional blocks struck within, foils to filter, and so contaminates the free flow of cosmic vibrations.

We should remove all self-imposed restrictions and allow the impulses of cosmic forces and mundane life to freely and flawlessly express through us, to fulfill the higher purpose of our life.

On occasions, we can be led to pray on behalf of others, who are in need or have requested for a prayer support. In this state, discarding all restrictive attitudes, we should desire the best blessing of God to shower on them, Even as, we feel strongly about praying for specific results, when it seems our immediate intervention is necessary then add the thought-impulse 'let Gods will prevail'. This is a state of awakened spiritual consciousness that will forever solve another's problems, just as it wills our own. When we gradually move on this path, we stop praying for ourselves, and end up praying for the well being of the whole world.

Willful and whims guided manipulative prayer is sorcery, and fails to have long-term constructive results. It merely tends to keep us and those who are influenced by our actions, involved in a conditioned, self-conscious behavior, and relationships, and do not contribute to spiritual growth. When praying for outer results for ourselves, or for others, pray with conviction until we experience a vivid realization of release, joy and gratitude, and then no longer we are concerned with the outcome. If results are not immediately forthcoming, we should not despair, having prayed in the right way, we have done our part, let providence decide the result.

We relate God as the one who cares. Some followers address their prayers to Saint's, Swamis and Sufi's. In many cultures God is considered as a father or a mother. A Hindu might relate God in one or several ways, as remover of obstacles, as provider of wealth, giver of knowledge, and Moksha etc. An initiated disciple relates to God through a guru or a spiritual teacher. Many take pleasure in the devotional worship of God. They observe rituals, sing, chant and pray. They do this joyfully as it provides them comfort; a devotee who totally surrenders to God shall never allow sectarianism or prejudice to cloud his thinking, because it can restrict his spiritual growth.

When praying for results, we must be sure what we want. Then our mind and consciousness accepts and then there is no

doubt in our heart about the outcome. As we go deep in prayer, we enter the phase of conviction, where we know 'It is done'. Then we are filled with gratitude, thankfulness and joy, now we will not plead again. We placidly and patiently waited for it to unfold and happen. When we pray for things, relationships etc, or for others, results are in accordance with our deep feelings and the state of our focused attention, that which enables us to see and accept the desired outcome, that for which we pray and claim.

If the unhappy pray for peace of mind and soul contentment, or if the fearful pray for trust and confidence, or if the sick pray for help and wellness, or if the lonely pray for enhanced conscious and relationship with God, or if experiencing restrictions of any kind one pray for absolute freedom, or if prosperity is needed in life of one who pray for it. All those who pray should accept the fact that cosmic forces can and will meet everyone's need abundantly, when the right time comes, and in the most appropriate ways, so don't hurry anymore.

When we put up any visualized or imaginary concept as a prayer into the universal mind, it draws forth a response to manifest or ignore based on realism and not on surrealism because our mind is a unit of the universal mind. The end results of prayers are predictable, the means by which results unfold may not be known to us, yet the results would generally be satisfactory, but the circumstances may not be, what our mind thinks should be.

At times in deep distress and acute anxiety, people are prepared to go anywhere to rid this depression, but the favors asked for are concerned with mundane affairs. Therefore prayers should be weighed, examined and judged accordingly, whether it is true or false in line of one's own conviction. Wrong prayers should not be invoked.

Suppose a person on one bank of the river, wants to cross the river and reach the other bank, by invoking the other bank of the river to come on his side of the bank, will the bank of the river grant his prayer? If you want to drink coffee with sugar, you don't pray for sugar to fall in your cup, you add sugar to the coffee. The priests befool people to earn offering by en-

couraging them to invoke Gods and Goddess. We must avert religious superstition. Why should people perform strange rituals? Incantations are of no avail and possess no saving power. One must avoid superstitions and guard himself by performing good deeds.

People imagine that invisible powers and supernatural forces are responsible for the events in their life, so they pray and worship self-created imagined superpowers in abstract or formless forms who live somewhere in the sky. If events are in favor there is Thanksgiving, assuming it was an act of God. The sole aim is to gain protection. This is how religious beliefs and practice started, and why primitive man started to pray. This was followed by religious rites and rituals, ceremonies and festivals. These festivities evolved according to prevalent customs, traditions, culture, and way of life, evolving and emerging from different regions and countries.

Offerings prayers, taking vows and practicing morality and sermons in the name of God, and believe what Holy Books promise a place of eternal peace called paradise, which actually is a ploy to control mankind and trap humanity in the bonds of religious slavery. Religions contradict what man has experienced. Today educated people don't believe religion. They think religion hinders the progress of mankind and misleads them by promoting superstitious beliefs and ridiculous practices, blindfolding the followers from seeing reality.

Some people spend their whole life in search of God. The question arises: Do we really need a God? Isn't he everywhere? One can see him in nature's creation and in every person and in every object. Happiness is something people are constantly running after. When one thing makes them happy, they start running after another. This will not end and this will not bring happiness to them, every human being wants. People living in the lap of luxury try to bribe God to gain more material possessions, always asking something or the other. God doesn't need to be bribed. The sooner we realize, it's better to place everything in God's hands, we will find happiness in life.

People go to temples, church and mosque, devoid of religious values, and offer loads of money, and then hope that everything

will turn up fine. All problems are in fact ' self-created'. Usually, they are the outcome of our karma. The subconscious mind can help us find solutions through meditation and prayer in silence. Various kinds of light, sensation and sound can manifest during meditation. The mental eye sees effulgence, which starts from a dot and gradually enlarges and spreads in all directions floating like a ball of dazzling light. No other object in seen except a big and powerful light in the mental space when our eyes are closed. The moment eyes open the light disappears. We know that neurons in the brain produce enough electrical energy to light a bulb, this physical energy is mistakenly understood as self-luminous light, the 'Atman', the soul or a part of the supreme spirit.

In meditation not only light but infinite empty spaces and visions are also seen, even a vibratory sense of our being is felt, as the non-physical reality of our being. Even a deep sound-less sound is heard, the 'Anahat Nad, the unstuck note, which is flawed as cosmic music. In fact, this sound is akin to the first heard sound in the womb, the mother's heartbeat, and the gurgling flow of embryonic fluids. The beam of light that enters the womb from the virginal pathway seen in the fetus becomes the light at the end of the tunnel. This is how we mix fiction with facts.

Such mixing up happens when subconscious and conscious mind are synchronized or in deep state of meditation. So, don't waste time on such silly things. Just watch fiction disappears and facts remain. Move towards cosmic consciousness, where everything recedes in the background and there is a release of spontaneous energy, the energy of bliss where we feel immense happiness. Just flow with this energy, no matter where it leads us to go up and down. This state of happiness does not last long, because after happiness there is sorrow, so we have to decide to be in a state of happiness by choice. Happiness is a state of mind and an attitude of our traits.

REDUNDANT RELIGIONS

CHAPTER 15

The Rusted Religions

FOUNDATION OF FAITH

The man witnessed natural disasters and terrifying incidents, threatening the very survival of his existence. When natural forces were not in his favor, he had to suffer. He started probing ways and means to prevent these unfavorable occurrences, which created fear, insecurity, pain, and suffering.

It was difficult for the prehistoric man to understand the cause and effect of natural phenomena's. He assumed there were some supernatural forces or a superior person behind all these happenings. He termed the natural world and the laws of nature, as the work of Gods.

To calm down the destructive rage of natural forces, the man began to worship them. He laced his prayers with praises, seeking protection from the gods of rain, the gods of fire and the sun god, etc., etc. When things went in favor or against man, he saw the laws of nature as the act of Gods. Mans ultimate aim was to gain protection from Gods to face a hostile world, which constantly threatened his survival, by natural calamities and ferocious animals.

Along these concepts, certain other practices were developed. They were rites, rituals and ceremonies or festivals, and thus religion became an intrinsic part of human civilization. The foundation of religion was laid by man, from beginning, for self-preservation because of fear, insecurity, wrong ideas of life and natural phenomena, and over a period of time, man embellished religion by introducing faith, Holy books, offerings, prayers, vows, penalties, morals, and ethics, in the name of God, in order to manage mankind.

Primitive humans lived in an unsafe and unfriendly world. The fear of wild animals, insufficient food, injury, disease, death, and natural calamities, constantly troubled them. With no security at hand, man created the idea of make-believe Gods in order to give him the fortitude to face danger, which served as a psychological placate, when things went wrong. God idea is a

byproduct of human anxiety and fear, and his faith in God gave man the strength to deal with the ordeal of life. Therefore, the God idea was essentially conceptualized out of human fear and frustration.

The man thought God concept was necessary to explain the origin of the universe. Even if science has revealed the cause of the universe with no God, it too has relied on mental constructs and theoretical models. We should recognize the fact that the cosmic processes are without beginning or an end, and are set in motion by natural causes. Our inability to explain the unknowable does not prove the existence or extinction of God. It only shows our knowledge of the universe is incomplete and unfinished. When our knowledge becomes more inclusive, we may of course, find out what causes this unexplained phenomenon?

Though the basic content of religion consists of God, soul, prayers, worship, sacrifices, ceremonies and rituals, in a nutshell, God, universe, and man, are the foundation stone of religious philosophy. The wisdom of religion was to know 'That', which is beyond the comprehension of human faculties. So unconcerned, whether 'That' actually existed or not, the ancient sages pursued to know 'That' by contemplating on how the unheard is heard, the unthought is thought, the unknown is known, and the unseen is seen? This was a unique philosophical attempt to go beyond the reach of human limitations.

Every religion has three components: (1) philosophy and ethics, (2) mythology and rituals, and (3) prayers and worship. Every religion has core concepts, but they do not match with the mythology and ritualistic part of religions, they are different and divergent to each other. Today, followers of religions have shifted from core values and dwell on mythology, rituals, and ceremonies, different in each religion, but mistaking it as same in all religions. This is the cause of conflict between religions. No religion is same they are different.

Religion has passed through many phases, the concept and meaning of religion have changed, from time to time, according to human understanding. In the beginning, the primitive man could not explain the incidents of lightning, storms, rain, floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes and other natural occurrences. So

he performed peculiar practices to control natural calamities to protect his life, this was termed as magic.

Thus, religion in prehistoric time was recognized with 'magic'. Soon after, the idea of magic vanished, and a new idea came that a supreme power existed, which causes these phenomena. This power was assumed as frightful yet magnificent. To propitiate the generous and to pacify the insensitive power, all methods of appeasement were deployed. Religion, at this juncture, was associated with beliefs, rituals, ceremonies, prayers, and sacrifices. Later, this power was called God, the one who creates the universe.

This was followed by the belief that a man has a soul, which is eternal, and answerable only to god, for the actions of man in the world. This is what religion has come out to be. This is what it connotes, the belief in God and the soul. Religion as a faith was easily accepted by the uneducated people in the medieval age, but modern educated man understands through rationale explanation. Thus religion is now out of place, and out of sync with time and people.

We need to establish a 'Religion of Righteousness', which means practicing the right relationship between man and man in all activities of life. The foundation of this religion will have the right understanding and compassion. Society can neither live amicably nor grow without love. Proposed spirituality can lead us, to the oneness of the world, and oneness of mankind, thus opening a new 'Chapter of Civilization' to prosper in the 21st century.

Society cannot do without a religion, yet society must have some suitable alternatives to choose a religion enforced by an indisputable authority or a religion as a self-governing body, or no religion, using the law of the State sparingly, if, people fail to observe the tenets. 'Religionless Society' can lead to anarchy. Religion forced on people saps human liberty. But, Swadharma a personalized religion, evolved by an individual, for the individual, can certainly make a difference, for the betterment of humanity.

Five thousand years ago, all religions were pantheistic and polytheistic as Hinduism, Taoism and Shinto still happen to be. Then a movement of monotheistic religions started in the Middle

East 2000 years ago, and spread through Christianity throughout Europe, and then on, to the European colonized territories. These monotheistic religions fought fiercely, to eradicate nature worship, in the lands they controlled.

God is an idea. Religion is the vehicle to promote that idea, so all religions start with the assumption of God. Religions consist of stories, symbols, and rituals to make God appear real. All religious stories have plots that defy imagination. The unrealistic content is meant to draw attention to the idea that God is great. With gross exaggerations, the search for 'God' in the framework of religion is a futile search.

Perhaps, God may have created man, but it was the man who created a religion. All religions say their God is the only God, and their holy book is the ultimate truth revealed to man by God, or that it contains the solution to all problems of man. Those who claim this, forget that all this has come out from the human mind. Is there anything beyond the human mind in a religious text or in the idea of God?

The concept of God is found in every religion. Buddha alone propagated a 'Godless' religion. He did not use god, soul, hell, heaven, to formulate his line of thought, nor did he exploit fear or distort natural phenomena to support his view, neither did he demand blind faith or rituals. Nor did he seek the authority of any external divine agency, to strengthen his arguments. He used right understanding, world and its natural phenomena, cosmic order, and characteristic of mind and matter, elements and energies, moral and spiritual development, discipline and mental training, purification of mind, knowledge, wisdom, and enlightenment to build a credible creed called Buddhism.

The traditional position is that the universe is governed by a fixed set of laws, as if by mathematical precision. In this orthodox picture, the physical world is affected by fixed laws but these laws are impervious to what happens in the universe. There are a set of perfect patterns, unexplained god or unexplained laws, the time has come, to find a theory, to bring it within the scope of scientific inquiry. Consciousness engulfing everything including us, and this vast ocean of consciousness is God that is here and everywhere, in the element, in the universe,

in time, and in space.

Two organized religions, namely Christianity and Islam are based on their Holy books. However, different paths were laid by different religions to reach the destination of truth. Hinduism through the evolution of thought, Buddhism through reason, Jainism through relativity, Zoroastrianism through worship, Christianity through love, Muslims through revelation, and Sikhism through devotion. India is the place, where many major religions were born. Therefore, scholars believe civilization comes from the East.

Religions were the expressions of their founders. Even after taking up arms against pantheism, to get rid of and swap it with monotheism. Without knowing, they introduced symbols of forms and promoted pantheism inadvertently, under their monotheistic religion. This reveals how weak the foundation of pantheistic and monolithic models is.

Some religions are described as a great disclosure that reveals the message of God to man, to worship him and save his soul. God's message is sent through a chosen person, a prophet, who reveals it, to the people. This abstraction and the unexplained hold the pivotal position of religions. The duty of the prophet is to take the followers, towards salvation and save their souls, from being sent to hell, so it is compulsory for the followers, to obey God's commands, and recognize the prophet, as his messenger.

Holy Books should serve as a map to reach a divine destination. But there is utter confusion, because of multiple interpretations, translated or rendered by commentators. In this incomprehensible variety of interpretations, the validity is lost. A single holy book has a supermarket of its interpretations if a follower doesn't like one he can have another. Confusing and irrelevant is the text of Holy books.

Everything in a scripture cannot be taken as truth. Many statements in ancient texts are contextual. Today things have changed, from the time the original founders existed. We need to explain the meaning of scriptures from the modern perspective with the knowledge of life and living here and not there.

To bond followers, religions invent and create unique identi-

ties, just to represent the whole group of followers of a particular religion, as one community. Nevertheless, religion and community serve different functions. It is a paradox that followers of a religion, move with time, and use modern technology, and still remain rigid, in observing, the age-old worn out religious beliefs and traditions. What is the essence religion? Do people really need to follow any code of conduct to be religious?

It is baffling that religious scriptures, prayers and mindless rituals can trigger so much emotion in human beings. We've had enough of that. When are religions likely to become uninteresting? We should rather look forward, and put our fears aside, and step into the fold of Satyadharma or spirituality.

Religions were created to combat the irrational customs and rituals prevalent at that time, but later, religions went on to become what they opposed, leaving behind an unchanged, if not, a more confused state of affairs. Holy books contain truth, perceived and relevant for the time when they were written.

The studies of religious scriptures clearly reveal, man has created the idea of God and religion. Religious leaders simply aired doubts and desires of people, only to establish a religious order. People still continue to believe, religions were created, by a divine being, other than a human being, which is incorrect.

Some people form their views on religion randomly, fabricate it falsely, and put forward many complex conjectures, visualizing man's deliverance is attainable, only by accepting their assumptions, knowing 'Truth' is not based on religious belief.

When the authors of holy books did not see God, then how can the followers see and know him? It is not possible for the religious leaders to show the way, that which they neither know nor have seen. Their talk is vain and consists of empty and deceptive words.

Rationality doesn't lead to truth, nor is truth known without reason. The world in reality exists. Imaginary beliefs, do not tell the truth, they bring forth errors. Faults can be fashioned but truth cannot be altered. Strike at the truth and not its interpretation.

There is a way, in which, one who describes, a thing is telling the truth, and there is a way, in which, one who expresses, the

opposite is also speaking the truth. Truth is one, but its expressions are, relative to absolute reality, and are said differently, by different people, about the same thing. So, it is better to comprehend, one point of view rather than a different point of views.

Besides, the bigoted, try to prove, even, the inaccuracies in holy books are true. With this mindset, followers fail to know, the true nature of their creed. That's why, it is our duty, to separate truth from error and leave it, to the people, to judge for themselves, what is right and what is wrong. People should always accept what is true, and reject, what is false, and lift people from ignorance to awareness.

In a money oriented world, religious imposters exploit poor people, who willing believe in anything, by prediction and divination, suggesting religion is the sole rescuer of their poverty. By lending hope to the poor, they induce them, to follow meaningless rituals, so that, they may forget their troubles. By these manipulative procedures, religious establishment has become richer and poor poorer. People should cease to support them, and State should punish them.

There is no supernatural being, no system of belief, and no religion. Because the proclamation of 'Satyadharma' or spirituality is based on natural and spiritual thoughtfulness, a spiritual sense that arises from the union of natural and spiritual experience, after all, all human beings are spiritual beings.

FAITH

Faith was developed to overcome man's fear. Down the ages, faith has been the fundamental feature of human life. Faith is like 'dropping in the dark and not knowing where to land' or 'Jumping from a mountain believing to fall in somebody lap' or 'lay down one's life to enter heaven'.

People repose faith in something that serves as an anchor to accomplish their pursuit. Lack of faith tends to question everything. Faith helps to move forward and gives a meaning to life. Faith is not based on reason. Different people have different faiths. Faith even incites mass destruction, some of the most heinous crimes, in the history of mankind, has been committed, in the name of faith.

Faith is not always futile. It gives the hope that, truth can be found, and the strength to seek it. With no reason, faith becomes false, whereas reason with no faith, weakens the curiosity to know. Reason seeks to know the truth, and faith the will to overcome doubt. While reason is contented with what is known, even as faith aspires to explore the unknown.

To know the unknown is far-fetched and involves unending endeavor, faith surely serves, as a stepping stone to explore. Faith does not diminish doubt, during the period of exploration. Doubt is a process of mental clarification. Faith can impel men to search the unknown. Without faith, nothing great can be accomplished by man. Faith in oneself alone can carry a man, to know the ultimate truth.

Faith quite often is viewed as a controversial matter. It means different things to different people, a conviction without any logic, or simply a blind belief. Some view it, as a positive force, capable to move mountains and others a false notion. Faith and reason oppose each other. Reason appeals to thoughts and faith to emotions. Arriving at truth is a tricky process; therefore, the best human minds have judiciously used both faith and reason, to move forward, in search of truth.

The unexplained is like a blank paper. Faith acts as a stimulus to discover the apparent. The power of faith goes beyond the longing of the inaccessible. Faith restricts the mind and thoughts weave a cobweb of assumptions. Reason decides to agree or deny it.

Faith is earnest in its pursuit and can submit to the will of the unseen forces. Faith with reason tells the truth. Religion and rituals only blur the vision of truth. Nothing seems unattainable to those, who rely on faith, but those who view, the act of faith, through the parameters of reason, term it, as silly and sightless.

Life is a sequence of perceptions and reactions. We see people, things, events, and circumstances continuously, and respond on the basis of our perceptions. Human life, in a nutshell, consists of knowledge and karma. To obtain knowledge, faith is required and not blind faith, which lacks proof.

Facts need verification and must be open to both experience and experimentation. Every person has faith in something or the

other that guides his vision and understanding of life. Drawn into right and wrong, money and morals, it is difficult to distinguish between reality and the make-believe world.

When faith passes through personal experience, its rationality and foolishness are discerned. Mere knowledge is not, the ultimate aim of human life. The process of knowing reality is unending. No one arrives at an end; we just take many routes to reflect and respond on the issue.

Since abstract simultaneously exists with the real, therefore, we are surrounded reality with various systems of belief. Faith makes easier, to absorb knowledge, knowledge without faith, produce scholars. But, knowledge with faith is vital, to progress on the spiritual path. Ironically, the same faith that takes us forward can turn out to be, a hindrance to our development to get better.

Correct understanding comes, not without seeing, but faith can believe in things, not so far seen, and still be hopeful of seeing it. Faith can go beyond human limitations and reason Faith gives the power to do anything. In the state of faith we tend to grow.

Religions have turned techno-savvy, with websites facilitating, to offer special prayers in temples, and sites carry spiritual discourses. TV serials too beam, and yesterday's sex bombs are now TV baptized, by mythological serials, and showcasing God-man's gufa and gaffe, and the cult of sex and spirituality.

Religion is a set of redundant beliefs and all mystical traditions are looked upon as acts of deception. Spiritual inclinations of human beings and the influence of natural forces are universally accepted, as a fact. How can anything be a reality about which no one knows anything? The idea of God invented by religion is based on human imagination and does not come from any extraterrestrial sources.

Devotion is linked to emotion, emotion to blind faith. Devotion was made an essential part of a religion, as founders saw; their call could easily connect, with human emotions, and will not bind easily, with sensible minds. So, religions preferred to nurture faith and devotion, without rationality, resulting in religious fanaticism. The sad outcome, of this bad experiment, is

before the world, to see its ramification.

Magical stories were juggled to set up the supernatural being, as a true persona. In one case, an angel appears before a chosen person, to reveal the divine dictates for people to follow. In another case, an individual is possessed by a mystical being that makes revelations to him and in another case, a person in trance connects him, with a divine being. Such stories move on, and go forth, to convey that the supernatural being is inaccessible by ordinary people. The situations in such case match the morbid state caused by drugs or mental abnormality, or through fear, or emotional strain.

Drinking custom was a part of ancient eastern religious practices. To stimulate religious feeling, the Vedic priests, used to intoxicate themselves, with the juice of soma, and utter prophecies. Drinking of wine continues to be a part of communion service of the Christians and the western world.

Early religion was ritualistic and known for its magic and miracles. The worship of fire, lightning, rivers, storms, winds, and trees, the sun and animals was the order of the day. Later rituals were meant for man's wellbeing. Then, repetition of meaningless words, mantras, and the sacred text, was the magic potion for salvation, besides flattering Gods, through prayers, was held, to grant boons, and remove sins.

Dogmas are meaningless and cannot be defined. They are vague perceptions of faith, which religion has forced upon their followers as indisputable facts. Religion can never stand the test to prove the ideas it spreads. To survive religion acquired an unquestionable authority to impose beliefs. It compelled people to follow, holding the scepter of hell and heaven, to reprimand and reward. How long can religion compel people to believe in what they cannot understand?

Each religion gives an identity, to a group of people, and imposes a code of conduct. Founders of religions, never urged their followers, to build temples, churches, mosque or monastery or appoint a pundit, pontiff, mullah or lama, as custodians of religions, authorizing them, to yield unbridled license, to enforce the message of well-being. All this was created, into a spoil system of misuse, after the death of the founders, at the behest

of, power hungry and greedy religious leaders, who wanted to create an institution, to serve their personal agendas, at the cost of poor and uneducated, blind followers.

The founders were not concerned about rituals, their demands, and criticism of social ills, was honorable, and the concern about rituals, was one of the things, they persistently denounced, in the name of the overriding importance of social justice. What they wanted was not any ritual but justice, mercy, and humility.

A religion that promotes miracles and mystical powers and promises material gain is exploiting fears, which arise from lack of knowledge, and the need of material resources, of the uneducated and the poor class of the society. Besides playing God, it gains confidence, in the face of the fear syndrome, created by the uncertainty, of human life and destiny.

The house of worship has made miracles a condition to confer sainthood, knowing well that the miracle of all miracles is religion itself. If we see miracles are once again back, it should not be a shocker to us. Miracles have to be manufactured constantly, by the priest to avoid disbelief in religion. There is no difficulty with the faithful because they can be led to believe in miracles, in anything and anywhere.

The house of worship does not recognize service to humanity as worthy to grant sainthood but approves miracles seeing them an act of God. Verifying evidence on the fiction of divine powers is a ploy. The issue is no more to ascertain the fake or real saints. Religions have always used miraculous powers to promote their religion by misleading the ignorant and the gullible.

Miracles give theological flavor, the characters and situations in the religious stories become bigger than life to stir the emotions of the followers, which produce awe, astonishment, surprise, and admiration. This is how religions flourish and survive.

Holy saints are for every occasion. Every year saints get more company. Even in this skeptical age, the house of worship continues to create new saints, and everybody from air hostesses to diplomats, cabbies to aids workers, are granted as special protectors. Saints who help those falsely accused of cannibalism.

In the modern era, nobody will accept a miracle because miracles belong to an unscientific age of ignorance and superstition. It is said that natural processes appeared miraculous to simpletons in the bygone age but now, in our scientific age, finding a logical explanation, for anything out of the ordinary, has become necessary to accept it as a right explanation.

Some coincidences are perceived as miracles. Even if miracles are unforeseen events, produced by supernatural acts, and not by natural means, considering laws of nature cannot be violated when it is not possible, for any event to be a miracle. However, it is observed that natural laws claimed scientifically by physicists are often superseded; leaving behind a feeling of incomprehension that gives reason to doubt that many aspects of natural laws, which govern us, are still beyond the human grasp. What appears to be a miracle maybe is the reflection of some natural laws at work not known to us?

Religious rituals reflect the tradition of people and the place where they dwell. Rituals are ornaments made by religion to attract the attention of the people. Even when performed under ceremonial glitterati, the efficacy of rituals has failed, to promote spiritual development, but as a balm, it can calm the psychological disorder, as claimed by, the devotees in distress.

Religion is dull and dead, without festivals. Religious festivals are held with the intention to catch the attention of the followers, to participate in religious festivals by design, so as to keep their association with their religion alive. The pomp and show of these festivals are painstakingly matched, with the current ceremonial style, and modern-day entertainment, but no effort is made to update, the outdated Holy books. However, to others, the manner in which the processions are taken out, and ceremonies are conducted, have a nuisance value.

MORALITY

Morality refers to ethical issues concerning the principles of right and wrong conduct, to regulate right human behavior that builds good character, society and continued existence of humanity. A moral code is a shared, common meaning based on particular cultural, religious and philosophical concepts and beliefs that

differentiate right and wrong, to ensure harmony between individuals, in order to have a good human society. Morality is all about relationship. Ethics is known as moral philosophy and is commonly used with morality. Despite some commonality, morality is often distinguished from etiquettes, law, and religion.

In the formative stage of human society, only the fittest survived. To establish a just and fair social order, the need to protect the haves and have-nots, in the struggle of existence, became imperative. To protect the weak some restraints, on the fittest were imposed. With this, the foundation of morality was laid. The code of morality was initially imposed, on the strongest to protect the weakest. Infringement was regulated, by fear psychosis of hell, and observance was rewarded by a complimentary stay in heaven.

Religion includes stories about supernatural beings used to explain or justify the behavior it prohibits or requires. Whereas morality is only a guide to conduct, religion is always more than this. Even though every religion preaches morality but morality is not the root cause of any religion. Morality is simply an add-on of religions. Religions have dealt morality casually and occasionally to suit their requirements. Had it been otherwise, no man would have killed another man in the name of religion.

The views on absolute and relative morality differ, therefore, the ordinary man is unable to specify exactly what is good, right, moral and ethical. Religious people justify morality from religious books, while nonreligious people justify morality on logic. Definition of morality is not static. It is, therefore, necessary to adapt morality, to a changing humanity, in the age of globalization, where new ideas are always evolving to manifest.

Morality should take the place of God. The new religion will have no place for prayers, pilgrimages, rituals or sacrifices. Morality will be the essence of spirituality. It is for man's wellbeing that man should love man. Morality will be made sacred, and to transgress it, would be a sacrilege, then people will not violate it.

Religious zealots and fundamentalist are the most disruptive elements, who continue to destabilize the fabric of the society, in the name of religious morality, to serve their vested interest. If society continues to consist of such antisocial religious groups,

society will remain disorganized. If the society tolerates groups with irrational agenda it will collapse. The only way to put a stop is to ignore religions and uproot them from the society forever, to safeguard the growth of each individual and the society, the only remedy is to embrace universal Brotherhood and peaceful coexistence.

TYPES OF RELIGIONS

Religion started, with worshiping many gods, 5000 years ago. Later religions were conceived in revolt, against polytheism. Buddha protested against polytheism, but his followers began to worship his statue, much as Christians worship idols of Christ and Mary, Muslims stone and holy place, and Sikhs their holy book.

HINDUISM

Hinduism is neither a religion nor a community. It consists of a number of communities having different Gods, worshiped in different ways. Even the worship of a god wasn't essential for a person, who has adopted to follow the Hindu way of life.

The question that tormented the Indian seers was how to free man from suffering, life's travails and find happiness. Through Vedas, a Vedic Culture evolved in India, which contributed to the evolution of Dharma. Vedanta was not initiators of any religion. Their teachings were based on Dharma. It was only Dharma that was once, spread throughout the world. To begin with, religion had no name. Hinduism was the name given by invaders when they reached India through Sind. Hinduism is an assortment of traditions with no clear center. Vedanta or now the so-called Hinduism is an evolved religion, unlike other religions that imposed holy books, like Bible and Koran on the followers. Hinduism has no specific religious book to follow.

Hinduism is Vedic philosophy. Even Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism have Vedic trait and traces. The founders of these sects, as well, as their subscribers, were originally followers of Vedas. Hinduism as a philosophy of life has held itself, open-ended, so as to integrate, all forms of belief and worship, without selecting or rejecting them, Hindus can venerate God in any form, it

doesn't matter what it may be, from male to female genitals and animals. Hindus are born Hindu, they are not converted. So, a Hindu can follow any religion and still be a Hindu. Hindus have faith that all godly powers, bless mankind, irrespective of any religion.

Conflict among Hinduism and its sects are a recent phenomena, otherwise, they have common characteristics and reciprocally inclusive. The Jain and the Sikhs consider themselves as siblings of Hindus. Many Hindus worship Buddha as a reincarnation of Lord Vishnu. Hindus also visit Jain, Buddhist and Sikh places of worship. India has always remained secular and a plural society, throughout its history. India as a nation has never declared State religion, except Ashoka and the Muslim rulers who made Buddhism, and later Islam, the state religion of India.

Hinduism has no founder, nor a single holy book, or any distinct school of thought. Its essence is mystic and amazingly chaotic. Hindus begin their religious journey on the path of confusion, on which relevant and irrelevant thoughts and practices of religion are laid for the seeker to appreciate the logical and the illogical so as to reach a correct understanding.

On the contrary, holy books create a conditioned understanding, because they are forced upon the followers as the ultimate truth. Later, the confusion of emerging out, of a conditioned state of mind, is indeed agonizing, for the followers of such rigid religions. A Hindu can worship sun, trees, snakes, and monkey or pray thousands of gods and goddesses available or he can invent a god or goddess, exclusively for himself. A Hindu believes God is everywhere; therefore, it's pointless to find him elsewhere, in the sky or in heaven.

Live and let live philosophy has given Hinduism strength, it has no rigidities and no dos or don't. It follows no fixed pattern, it is a free-for-all. Everything according to Hindus depends on their karma. To a Hindu, religious involvement is his personal matter. Hinduism needs no fanatics to save their religion, nay their way of life, nor do Hindus see their religion is in danger. Hinduism is a way of life. Hindus do not believe in conversion, they accept the good of other religions in their fold.

India has a diverse heritage, people living on the banks of

Indus river, were known as 'Indus' to the Greeks, and Hindus to the Muslim barbaric invaders, as a geographical identity, later the word Indus became India. There was no caste, no temple, only prayers in the oral tradition of Vedas. Dharma or religion was a way to realize, peace and harmony, by practicing the principles of moral, social and spiritual values.

In India, all religious communities are, similar in their religious culture, practices, and share the nation's social ethos, yet they want to appear different, rather than being similar. People worship the same God, but view him through their eyes and thoughts of each worshipper.

Hinduism states human life is governed by the laws of our previous and present karma, according to Hinduism atman or soul is immortal, it passes from one life to the next. Other religions deny it, but some believe there is a constantly changing stream of mental energy, which appears again and again, and not as a separate entity.

BUDDHISM

Buddha's whole work was carried by oral communication, writing was known in his day, book writing was not unheard of. In initial Vedic traditions, Books were not written, but learned by rote, and taught from memory. It is probably not correct, to believe that the very words, in which Buddha spoke, have come down to us. Yet there is no reason to disbelief either, since those words were spoken by Buddha, several times in his teachings.

Most religious scriptures took its shape, after the founders were gone, when their philosophies assumed the proportions of mass movements. It was Ashoka 200 years after Buddha, expanded the reach of Buddhism, from a local faith to become an international belief. It was St. Peter and St. Paul, who after Christ's crucifixion, gave shape to Christianity. But for the efforts, of the first four Caliphs, the message of Prophet Mohammad may have remained a desert philosophy.

Buddhism is not a concoction of religions or diverse religious ideas. The Buddha did not collect materials from other religions or philosophical ideas here and there. Buddhism has its own characteristics and identity. No religious teacher had found the

absolute truth and a lasting formula for the final salvation of man. They had merely attained certain stages of spiritual development, without complete freedom, from beliefs, illusions, imagination, hallucination, and ignorance.

Buddhism, which is, in fact, an offshoot of Hinduism, categorically devices the reality on God and soul, what is more, it goes on to question the validity of Vedas. One takes refuge in the Buddha's path because it allows the freedom to modulate it, to one's self-awareness. Buddhism view of dependent origination and the inherent emptiness of all phenomena is profound and radical. It dispenses with the existence of the creator God.

The other day, the confused people of Kalama, a state in North Western India, asked Buddha, 'Sir, so many preachers, philosophers, teachers, come to us, with their beliefs. Each of them says, what they teach is the truth, who are we to believe.' Buddha smiled, his answers scholars say, is one of the most extraordinary in the history of religion, 'Believe not anything, just because it is said by your elders, the wise, the enlightened ones or the Buddha, accept the truth only, what you find from your direct experience that which is beneficial and good for all, harmful to none'. The concept of Satyadharma or spirituality is based on the idea of this unique philosophy.

CHRISTIANITY

Christ is claimed to be the prophet of Christianity. He claimed he was the son of god. Christ laid down the order that there was no salvation for a person, unless he accepted Christ, as such, he secured a place for himself, by making the salvation of Christians depending on their acceptance of Christ, as prophet and son of God.

None of the founders of organized religions have said that, when they are gone, let the order, if it should so wish, abolish all the lesser and minor precepts. Truth existed before the founders of religions were born, and exist even after they passed away, and not as they interpreted it. Truth is eternal, above human understanding. The truth envisaged in religious books is temporary, they were prescribed because it suited the occasion and needed for transient exigencies, and truth, however, truth is not

transient and temporary. Truth is eternal, the ultimate standard, by which, we can discern false and true doctrines. Let us then revere truth, let us inquire truth, let us state the truth, and let us obey truth, for truth is our guide and our God.

ISLAM

Muhammad Ibn Abdullah became prophet at the age of 40 years, when angel Gabriel recited the first verses of Koran in a cave, in the next 25 years of Muhammad's life, Koran was revealed. So, he preached a new religion that condemned idolatry and paganism, and declared that Jewish Torah and Christian Bible were corrupted forms of God's words, and therefore, Allah had given the Koran to him.

This posed a threat to him and animosity against him grew. Muhammad and his follower migrated to Medina and through a military action 'Jihad' he vanquished Mecca and entered Kaba, destroyed the idols and declared it the abode of Allah. Here brutal force was used, to demolish old religion, and establish a new religion called 'Islam' achieved through jihad.

Followers of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are alike and not different in their religious beliefs and practices, yet they are intolerant to each other. For Muslims, the favorite way to alienate the followers of other religion is to regard them as 'Kafir' and use the sword of 'Jihad' to kill or force them to become followers of Islam.

Today Islam is seen as synonymous with terrorism, because of their religious belief 'Jihad', though most of the terrorists are Muslim, all Muslims are not terrorists. So to counter Jihad, Koran also says, 'Whosoever kills a single human being, it is, as if, he has killed all mankind'.

ATHEISM

Atheism is a system of views rejecting faith in spirits, god, and life after death etc. Atheism criticizes religious dogmas from the standpoint of scientific studies on the universe. It expresses the social role of religion and shows how religion has created misery from time immemorial. The philosophic basis of atheism is materialism and to certain extends material spirituality. They

consider the arguments on the existence of God as fallacious.

It is difficult to recognize the idea of an unidentified atheist power regulating. When the Taliban in Afghanistan destroyed the ancient Buddhists statues at Bamiyan, many westerners were outraged but how many of them actually believed in the divinity of the Buddha? Rather they were angered because the Taliban did not show appropriate respect for the cultural heritage of the world.

Chapter 16

Format Formulation

Religion is a faith based on the belief of an invisible controlling power.
It serves personal and social needs of a group of people sharing the same ideology, and the sense of value and morality, built to regulate civility, among its believers.
All religions have three facets: philosophy, rituals, and mythology.

PHILOSOPHY

Human curiosity is the most dominant drive behind all explorations to know the creator, creation, the meaning of human life, and life beyond death. Consequently, when reason appeared, the curiosity to know the unknown, the unthought-of, the unheard, and the unseen became the passion of the human mind. This set the foundation of all religions, created out of sheer imagination and philosophical speculation of the human mind.

However, an element of expectation to know that which cannot be known called GOD was at the center stage of all religions. Magic and miracles were also associated with religion. Even today the belief in the miraculous powers still, baffles the devotees of religion with wonder.

Religions were a start-up form of philosophy. The foundation of religion was laid in response to the fundamental fear, insecurity, and misunderstanding of the natural phenomena, which creates a calamity on human life. Human fear is the edifice of religion, and faith in the Savior God is its essential feature.

Earliest religions arose out of cavemen's fear and the admiration of natural phenomena. As a consequence, the primitive man started worshipping fire, lightning, rivers, storms, winds and trees, sun, animals and several other terrestrial phenomena too.

The founders of religions claimed to know the absolute truth and offered their comprehensive view of reality by twisting facts and making a skewed analysis. Neither the absolute truth nor the non-absolutist exchange of view can be comprehended by the intellect completely. So, we need to appreciate different as-

pects of reality, and different point of views, to get a wholesome view.

Today, the caravan of religious philosophies is heading nowhere. Thoughts from the mind of innumerable religious philosophers are sickening, frightening and choking the mind. Theology is polluted with so many schools of thoughts. Therefore, waste no time on them.

In the process of knowing, return from deviant views, and rely on a proper understanding. To comprehend anything it is necessary to first start from a particular point of view, and end by scanning different point of views to know the right view. Even this may merely reveal partial view of the totality and not the whole.

Reliance on personal experience is the ultimate in the school of thoughts that symbolizes the spirit of Free Inquiry. There is, in reality, neither truth nor error. No virtue or sin. Nor any division whatsoever, all including the similar and the contrary is one.

MAGIC AND MIRACLE ~ (Rituals and mythology)

Religions are linked to myths. The making of mythology was the outcome of human imagination, showcased by distorting the reality of the world and natural phenomenon. Falsification of facts comes from fear and ignorance of the primitive man. Myths live even now, because followers need them to keep religions alive. Therefore, the naive continue to rely on these stories, or else mythology differs, from one religion to another religion.

The core philosophy of religions is broadly comparable. Like for instance, there is a supreme power God in Christianity, Allah in Islam, and Brahman in Hinduism. Kaba, cross or an idol are depicted as symbols. Places of worship church, mosque, and temple are meant for devotees to pray. The comparative study reveals the basic pursuits of all religions are the same, and the rest all is a cultural interpretation or the variations of the path to reach the common religious goal salvation.

Religious edicts contained in scriptures conformed to the social context prevailing at that time. These diktats can be understood in the backdrop of social history. The genesis and practice of religion can be understood by adopting a sociological ap-

proach.

Wandering bards and storytellers carried tales by word of mouth. Every story was or not historical, but the storytellers more often than not, exaggerated the goodness of the hero, the beauty of the heroine, and the wickedness of the villain. These exaggerations distorted the narrative of religions and history.

Mythical tales are exaggerations in the works of faith. The story and the characters are kept open-ended, to individual elucidation, so that people can identify themselves, with these characters, and accept them, as an icon or role model, to ensure the continuity of mythology.

People need myths as they symbolize their culture. Myths embedded in faith has massive power and impact, it brings a common understanding of a social order that binds the individual and communities together, which is why myths make profound sense to one group of people and not others. Myths cannot be rationalized, we either accept them or not. Society's constant search for heroes creates myths. Human heroes eventually die, but the mythical heroes are immortal.

There is no evidence of an ideal world but such worlds do exist in mythology and human minds long for it. This longing inspires art, establishes empires, sparks revolutions, and motivates leaders. Such is the power of myths. The veneer of myths is the cosmetic of a religion, which creates an exclusive brand. Therefore, mythology is an important tool for marketing religion.

Religious theories are speculations based neither on logic nor on facts, but on religious scriptures considered infallible, their authority cannot be questioned nor can their text be amended. Followers have to stick to them, much against their wishes. We need to reject this rigidity, which is in conflict with the natural state of change. Nothing is final. In the modern context, these medieval Holy Books are useless. They should be discarded since they curb the freedom of thought, and are no more a source, to create social values for the 21st century.

Even today magic and miracles sell religion, by making statues drink milk, healing people, the mass awakening of (Kundalini) a spiritual power, and statues shedding tears of blood. The religious preachers claim that these supernatural events have no

human explanation. But actually, all these claims have proved to be a fraud played on the gullible followers. When God is doped, priests are drunkards, and religion hooked on drugs.

In the sphere of several sacred books, the reality is mixed, with a large dose of sense and nonsense. Fabrications of facts act as poison to distort the mind. Many try to know truth, from these false books, and in the process they swallow lies. Truth contaminated with falsehood must be avoided.

SUPERSTITION

The greatest burden in the world is superstition. Fear is the mother of superstition. Fear is produced by religion. However, in the long run, fear cannot withstand reason and experience.

CHAPTER 17

Misuse of Religions

The consequence of religious bigotry is different from what faiths sermonize.

Belief in one's religion creates a sense of exclusiveness and a feeling of superiority over those who subscribe to other religions. With bigotry, religious intolerance grows, and places of worship, belonging to another religion are vandalized. More nauseating than the resurgence of religious bigotry is the rise of beliefs and superstition.

When religion is used as an identification mark, it creates rivalry, resulting in intolerance, hatred, violence and the desire to dominate. We need to understand the distinction between reality and religion. Language, religion, race, nationality and color, caste also creates, separate marks of identifications, which serves a specific purpose to gain egocentric benefits. Worst of all, it is the identity of religion that creates strife and not Holy books. Peaceful co-existence is possible among followers of different faiths; all that is required by faith followers is to avoid the use of religion as an identity card, a label or as a brand name.

People belonging to all religions must jointly harness their energies to discover the vagaries and limitation of the religious school of thoughts. Religions are still struggling with the definition God, and surprisingly God happens to be the main character or the hero of all religions. Do we still have to give so much importance to such ideas? The concept of religions and nations cannot co-exist with peace on earth.

The support of the ruling class made the priest a powerful instrument of the state. The priest became power brokers using religion as a means to achieve territorial and material gains. In this inconsistency more blood was shed in the name of religion than from any other cause. With the support of the state, religions grew stronger with time. Now, it's the turn of the State to decide, what to do with religions, reform, or promote spirituality.

The priests guarantee a place in heaven in return of mon-

etary offerings. Power politics and money corrupt the religious leaders, who stigmatize religion as a leftover of ceremonial paraphernalia rites and rituals. The easiest targets for priest are the poor, the neglected and the uneducated. Education is curbed because the priests know knowledge can expose the hollowness of the Holy Scriptures.

Rulers supported religions to bridge the ruling class with the poor and the illiterate people of the society. Rulers were far removed from this segment so just by manipulating the priest they could easily influence this section of society. Nothing has changed politicians are following the same policy today. Religions should strictly adhere to the policy of non-involvement with the governments of the day. The association of religion with rulers or governments has turned religions into vote banks and as power brokers, thus the very purpose of religion is defeated. Religions started a pious process but slowly lost its significance. Now religions are run on quilt, fear and greed. Whatever breeds from fear, greed or quilt cannot lead to welfare and well being of human beings.

Can unification or replacement of religions be the answer? Should people now pursue spirituality or Satyadharma? The conflicts between religions are becoming more and more violent day by day turning into a clash of civilizations, making religious people perpetually disillusioned. Where has religious tolerance of followers and their leaders gone? Has it vaporized into personal interest concerning power, greed and monetary cravings of religious leaders? The infighting has also ripped all religions apart.

Criminal and wicked people take refuge of religion to serve their nefarious agendas, as they know too well that the majority of the people in the world are deeply rooted in religion. These mischievous elements are also familiar with the fact that religions can turn the faith followers blind easily, and exploit them to do anything in the name of religion, even if it is to sacrifice one's own life.

Today, the believers of religion cannot even read the script of their religious book nor can they understand the meaning of the text. As a result, all misinterpretation goes unchecked and unex-

amined. Taking advantage of this drawback, priest, pundit and mullah thrive on it. If people are educated and aware of facts, bad people would be out of the business of religion.

It is hard to convince people to go by the Holy book, than it is to baptize them. Just like it is hard to switch to reality than to trust in grace and to comprise more converts, it is better to traumatize faith, by lessening human anguish.

Religious leaders take advantage of the flaws inherent in human nature. They even create chaos by cheating and confusing citizens and put their personal safety at risk. Their propaganda attracts and appeals people but when the gullible join hands with them, it ends in their ruin. By the time they realize their mistake, the damage has already been done. Distortion and deviation of religion has gone too far.

Man has made blunders but has not failed in collective clusters. He has done well in shrinking the sorrow of the world through scientific technology and economic prosperity. While each religion continues to depend on personal allegiance of a group consisting of their own followers, and not collectively on the followers belonging to all religious groups, creating races and nations as the commodity of their assembly. For that reason religions and nationalism are the biggest threat in 21st century.

Religion was a nuisance in Europe for centuries until the cultural renaissance broke the backbone of the fanatics and the onset of modern civilization relegated religion to the background. Now in Europe religion has no locus-standi. Unfortunately, this is not the case in South-Asian countries. If religion was the curse of India from ancient times, it shows no respite in modern times, in spite of its rich culture heritage. Religious dogmas, scriptures, injunctions, fads and fanaticism have been exploited by politicians and also by leaders in other spheres of life for personal, parochial and sectarian aggrandizement.

Display of outward religious symbols like growing beards wearing veil and headgear etc should be discarded as medieval age relics. This does not serve any religious purpose except creates a separate outer identity of the followers of a religion that gives arrogance, and invite trouble for themselves and others due to rivalry among religions.

The universal evolving norms of civilized society are now directed to remove rigidities and observe unity in diversity to bring to an end civil disruptions, communal violence, religious conflicts and international tension. It is amazing to see how with great excitement and broadmindedness religious people and preachers keep pace with the latest technological development and enjoy the benefits and ease of technology. To be sure, this brings a drastic change in their lifestyles, they accept with enthusiasm and not with remorse.

But, unbelievably, when it comes to bring reforms in religions, to make religions relevant and time friendly, they become intolerant and shut their minds with narrow-mindedness. Practicing double standards simply reveals their selfishness and not any religiosity. Although religious organizations are administered by obsolete dictums and old directives but the rigidity of priests and preachers has already sapped the vitality of religion. The death knell of religions to exit from the world has come, and the dance to death before the curtain falls has begun.

Religious authorities still go to extreme levels of sentencing women to be stoned to death, with her body buried in sand up to her neck, for having babies out of wedlock or having illicit sexual relations. This demonstrates how outrageous and unacceptable such draconian death sentence are, issued by the priest in the name of religious scriptures. Ruffians and religions are a lethal mix.

Why any proposal to change false religious beliefs is condemned as sacrilege? Effort to change is dubbed as a deviation from the teachings of the holy book, overlooking the fact, that natural laws bring constant change in the whole universe. Educated and well-off people shirk to take up the profession of a priest. So, the clergy comes from extremely backward, illiterate and poor families. They lack the vision of modern society. No scientific education is taught to the students of 'Theology', thus, the outlook of the clergy remains medieval, feudal and in conflict with the sociological requirements of the day, but is in conformity with the directives of the religious authorities to serve their vicious plans. The clerics relive history as it was back in time.

The period of historical versions, lose their relevance with the passage of time, the languages, the usage of words and their meaning also change with time. Yesterday's point of view changes and sounds unreasonable today. History is past, laid in a dead state, and buried long ago. Let's make religion history too.

The cleric even today is a part of the authority structure, supported by political parties in power. Political leaders can control religious organizations, and the cleric can hold the manifesto of political parties. Thus both find it beneficial to resist change and reform. In this manner they stifle the spirit of religious and political dynamism.

When people follow religious teachings blindly, they often lose the sense to reflect freely and judge impartially on facts. All religious teaching is blinkered, commands blind faith to enhance its dictatorial dominance. In the name of religion fanaticism and superstitions have emerged, and their bloodsucking ideas have drained and contaminated the entire mindset of mankind. In this state of religious hated can there be peace in the world?

Those who are under the influence of religion have forgotten to look within themselves. They have blocked their inner judgment. Religious people can only rely on outside forces to do their thinking because they function mainly on blind faith and rituals, and hardly heed the voice of conscience the inner wisdom.

Even if there is a conflict between theology and sociology, the apprehension depends on the circumstances and the mindset of the people. The difference between religions is not between polytheism and monotheism or linked to holy books or struck by a deep disparity between theism and atheism but it is among the set of people, who sense and those who do not sense others feelings.

Educated people dislike rigidity. Religion has to present itself rationally to the intellectuals. What man needs now are facts not stagnating precepts based on fiction. The modern man cannot be dictated by doctrines and dogmas. It is often blind faith that tricks the trusting people in the name of religion. Reliance without reason can be ruinous, and faith without reason can

turn into fanaticism, giving birth to religious fundamentalism. It is time that faith should be blended with reason.

Holy war and holy warriors are forced to gain political authority, and give religious establishments power. Threat to security is raised by cleric's call that religion is in danger, this creates a false feeling, to move the agenda from religious receptiveness to religious identity. Past experiences show that such formations are part of political game, followed to restraint such activities when the damage is done.

Fundamentalism refers to a belief that takes into account certain articles of faith or fundamental features of religions, considered to be sacred beyond question. Beliefs such as the virgin birth or the revelations in holy books or the infallibility of a prophet are simply not to be questioned. But are these the only conclusive fundamentalism around us? Haven't the fundamentalist transformed the house of God into a terrorist haven.

Why religions are not legally liable for misleading their followers with false concepts? Why religions are not responsible to revise old precepts to new realities? Religions are not bothered because they are sure that their followers will not desert them but will continue to be with them from their birth till death. Under these conditions, then why should a son follow his father's religion?

Spirituality is a natural urge of every human being so no one has the right to impose or force religion on anybody. This would be a gross violation of human rights. Since the victims are newborns the matter becomes more serious. State should intervene and stop this cruel custom that curbs human character, personality and qualities, and gives leverage to religious authorities to create conflict-ridden religious camps, at the cost of human freedom, to serve the personal plans of the priest, the pundit and the mullah.

All religions should become a part of a school syllabus, and taught as a subject to students. After they acquire reasonable knowledge of all religions, then each student may decide, which religion he would prefer to follow, one, two or many, or follow his own version of religion called Spirituality. No human being on earth should be branded or identified under the name of any

religion at the time of his birth. The State must scrap all rules where people are asked to declare their religion, and treat religion as a private matter of a citizen.

Ironically, religions survive on the concept of God, to dominate the civil society, even after the survival of religions for almost 3000 years; all organized religions are still struggling, with the definition of God, which is the biggest dilemma of organized religions and the greatest absurdity of human mind. This proves God is not reached through any religion, or through public gatherings, or religious rituals.

It is only during an individual effort that godlike moments are felt by a human being at the individual level, in the domain of his personal privacy. By bringing out God on streets, human civilization has suffered irreparable loss. Let mankind not be misled anymore by religions that promise but cannot deliver. Isn't it time to wake up and correct this error?

Those who do not subscribe to their way of thinking, religions inflict suffering on them, they are regimented and ostracized from society or expelled from the country or even beheaded. Religions are far removed from reality and ride roughshod over its own people.

Sexual instinct is a natural breeding activity, hardwired in all living beings, to procreate. Indulgence as a thing of play and pleasure is a folly, and to suppress is unnatural too, even if, it was in the name of religion. The religious establishments are now realizing this fact with difficulty. The priests and nuns are compelled to observe lifelong celibacy, yet they have been resorting to unnatural methods, to vent their sexual urge.

Concealed sexual connections, homosexuality and pedophilia are some of the practices that the priests have been indulging in. The harm did by some priests and religious leaders to young and vulnerable fills us all with a deep sense of sadness and shame. Compulsion of celibacy is not compatible with human nature. Perversion has reached to the most vulgar level.

People should be decently dressed and make no attempt to display religious symbols as a dress code of their religion. No prophet would have advised people living in hot areas and cold regions to wear the same dress. Religion should not have a dress

code at all. The difference between modernity and religions orthodoxy arises because religious leaders want to take back the lifestyle of modern age to medieval age. But they themselves do not find anything wrong, in enjoying the fruits of modernity.

Conversion from one religion to another is done through force, fraud or unfair inducement. There are instances where people were forced to convert to save their lives from violent mobs belonging to another religion, are readily admitted to their faith. This is a mockery of religion. Few educated people renounce their religion and embrace another except for convenience, when they marry people of another faith or for the sake of monetary benefits. Conversions are basically restricted to the deprived, discriminated against and the destitute tribal's, and lower castes, who hope to get a better deal in life, by converting to another religion.

Forced religious conversion of poor tribal's with monetary and political support is going on full speed even today. All this is done by 'economic conversion' a loan, a house and fees for schooling. Is this ethical? Conversion is taking place even at gunpoint. Conversions are catastrophic to the psyche of the people. They threaten a way of life, erasing centuries of tradition, customs, wisdom and teaching, to despise their own religion and look towards a culture which is alien to them.

Some religions are dwindling at home due to scandals, eroding the faith of people in them. They are thus looking for new converts in third world. But, this new millennium should be earmarked for the spiritual development of the human race irrespective of their religious affiliations through the philosophy of spirituality or Satyadharma. Unless world shifts from narrow-minded religions to a larger and higher perspective of spirituality, religions will head towards self-destruction.

Crusades and Jihad were commonly known as holy wars. More than a century long conflict between Christian and Islamic interest in past, has split lot of blood, deadly rioting, ransacking and warfare in the name of religions. We should learn lesson from this bitter experience and prevent history to repeat itself.

Today, innocent people are being killed in the name of religion, no respectable religion can excuse these merciless acts,

no moral framework could sanction these abominations, and no political cause could justify murder of the innocent, we know that ultimately, Good will triumph over evil.

One generation after another generation has grown under the obsolete ideology preserved in our holy scriptures. Thoughts were put in, by those authors, which were relevant in the frame of time they lived in. Hopelessly, even now, the modern educated people are forced to grow under the influence of these prehistoric religious scriptures, ideas which still remain indigestible and language unreadable, without deleting the obsolete.

Religions will soon become ineffective. The religious community has been caught unaware by the rapidly changing world through globalization. A solution to all problems is possible, if, religions stop seeing a global conspiracy against them. Religions need to institute and ensure the accomplishment of openness, accepting constant change and democracy in place of dictatorial or theocratic system of governance.

An over-dependence on esoteric, high-sounding theories is meant more to intimidate than to enlighten. This creates more doubts. Those who swear by religion, and who over-zealously quote scriptures, encourage over-dependence on written word, rather than understand the spirit behind them, and quoting scriptures without comprehending it, and thus create misunderstanding, fuel violence and aggravate sectarian friction. Some attribute lack of culture to an over-dependence on rationality.

On matters of faith people rely on religion for an identity like a tag a trademark; even when most people are branded at birth and follow that religion to their grave.

Religious fanaticism is thriving by petrodollars from Middle East and other rouge countries. Unless this is stopped, controlling fundamentalism will be difficult. Religions do not preach bloodshed, yet horrible killings are being executed in the name of religion. The fault it seems lie with the other religion because we perceive other religions with prejudice and lack of knowledge.

If there are religious extremist there are religious moderates too. Religions are not same everywhere, but humans are humans everywhere. We should not be critical of religions but should be

critical of closed minds. Knowing the teaching of all religions brings awareness inducing an open mind. Conservativeness comes from insecurity leading to extremism but there's a natural resistance to any extremism, this aspect needs to be encouraged. Extremism prevails when liberal and moderate voices are subdued, we must strengthen the voice of truth.

Regular religious celebrations create camaraderie among multi-religious groups. Even while following one's own religion people should participate and celebrate the festivals of other religions. This will subdue the situation of intolerance to fly into a rage and taper the temper into tolerance level for social harmony.

Hammered with wrong notions of God, the thoughts of religious people are nailed to dogmatic intensity. Stuck to the letter of the scriptures, they overlook the fundamental nature of things. Rigidity is not natural but to seek the spirit of the godliness in nature and not in religion is indeed the natural urge to satiate human curiosity. Awaken and connect to this source of life force, which is nurtured by natural spiritual world that manifests its forms in multiple varieties.

Superstition is a stigma and Institutionalization of religion a shame. Religions reduce individuality of a person and render him unreasonable with ruinous consequences. A herd mentality erases the individuality of a person. An individual must be free to take the road of self realization, which is the ultimate goal of Satyadharma.

Religious Institutions tend to produce intemperance of its basic principles, even justifying the killing of innocent people in the name of religion. Religion cannot be generalized for a civilized society; it should prompt individuals to go after truth. Total awareness alone will bring about the ultimate liberation. Religious institutions back individuals who suit their interest, and do not back the interest of an individual, which spirituality does.

When religion chooses to adopt the path of investigation and verification, only then real knowledge will arise by a scientific temper. On the contrary the followers of a particular religion are conditioned to believe that only their religion can lead them to heaven, while followers of other religions will go to hell.

The followers of religion overlook their fundamental nature and are obsessed with temple, mosque or church, as if, they are caged in them. Religions should promote unity and remove differences, we have to bear each other and live together. We are not here for eternal stay so let there be happiness in our meeting. Let there be no hatred, let there be no violence, let us live together, and let others live the way they want to live.

Religious books, written in bygone time, must be seen as an old record, which tries to tell, the shaping of our species in the books of human history, when no one had the slightest idea of what was actually going on. The study of religion does divulge the development of human thought of not knowing to know.

The doubtfulness of God, the wickedness done in his name, the probability that God is manmade, surely brings uncertainty in all existing religions. Then we should not explore a less damaging alternative belief system, nor can we wish away any other belief system. Because it gives hope, infuses enthusiasm and leads to the expansion of human thought.

Scientific studies prove God is not the creator of the universe. Science outlines the ascent of Homo sapiens over millions of years by the process of natural selection. The word of God revealed through prophets in religious texts is full of incomprehensible lapses and inconsistencies. The religious books are not universal but local and confined to cultural and geographical limitations. These holy scriptures were relevant at certain place and time in history but irrelevant and out of place now. God did not create man but man created God.

The ego of human beings is the root cause of all evil. Religion claims to tame it by holding mankind to the will of a higher being called God. But in practice it intensifies egoism and fosters violence. Religions have ruthlessly persecuted people in the past and they continue to do so even now.

Today, the majority of people are more educated and more reasonable than ever before in the past, still we are not likely to see the end of religion. Be it hardwired in us or not, the fact remains that the thirst of human mind, to know the unknown and the unknowable is certainly unquenchable. Let us accept that the faith in spirituality and not in organized religions is here

to stay, so we must in our multi-religious global village, find a way to make reasonable and universal principles, responsible to serve the human needs of mankind.

People world over are questioning the relevance of religion. Religion has failed, religion is not living, it is dead, yet the words stoned are still recited, but not understood, even by the custodians of the listless religions. Let us free ourselves from these out-of-date obsolete religions, by widening the scope of spirituality, and embrace all human beings in its fold. Intelligence, wisdom and experience should be the benchmarks, to develop faith in the divine, otherwise lack of vision sets in, struck by the disorder of a frog in the well syndrome.

Religious zealots have ransacked the thought process of religious people. They are at mercy of intolerant and crafty religious leaders, who take religion on a ride to suit their own agendas and power games. They have even invented their own code of conduct and epigram of ethics, ever since this wicked device of the cleric worked; religion stopped evolving, stagnated and is dead now.

Unfortunately, living people are killed in the name of dead religions. Religion has served to justify injustice and create divisions and hatred among people. It has impeded the growth and progress of our civilization. Religions have become the fossils of dead rule. When a new rule merges it emerges by replacing an outdated old rule. The existing organizations of religions also emerged, by replacing outdated religions thousands of years ago. Since all existing religions have outlived their utility, the time to replace them has come.

To comprehend reality human mind creates a web of rational and ridiculous concepts, many more evolve, and some stay, and rest fade away. The vast space is mysterious. Many theories on the subject of universe and its creation are baffling. We live in a never-ending limitless space, timeless time and expanding knowledge, the more we know the more there is to know. To understand mysteries of nature reality and imagination go together.

All living beings have originated through natural processes. This is opposed to the religious view of the divine creator. Since

laws of nature run on their own natural course, so the role of God stands negated as described by religions. Ape ancestry and close anatomical relationship between humans and primates raises the question whether God created man or not.

The observations of the founders of religions are beyond verification, they are accepted purely out of reverence or fear. Reality needs to be objectively verified, critically examined and then accepted. Let us not fear if false concepts enshrined in religious books are sunk in the sea of obscurity and lost.

Educated people do not follow blindly. Religions were institutionalized because of the support of the illiterate masses. The circumstances have changed, today the common man is educated, and therefore, the decay of religion as an institution is imminent. Spirituality will take the place of religions. Modern society does not need religions or religious people but spiritual truth and knowledgeable people.

Extravagant spending on religious festivals is a waste of financial resources. When it comes to religion people have strong views and can stake their funds even beyond their means for religious purposes and not for social causes. Clerics as creepers enjoy a luxurious lifestyle and live as parasites on the money of donors.

Do saints, gurus and godmen have a place in the digital age of television? They serve media curiosity, as an entertainment, and spiritual sop for a materialistic society. They are so hollow that people come to know about their fooleries soon. Society should not take them seriously and shun them. They are actually artful dodgers, conning innocent people, to live at their cost, in a lavish way, without making self efforts, to earn their bread.

A religion based on make-believe concepts fails to answer questions on the natural reality of life. The challenge before educated society is to get rid of fundamentalism, bigotry, rituals, false religious preachers and their teaching, which is demolishing the base of rational thinking. Faith is not an obstacle but religions indeed are. Faith is a positive feature of human mind. Faith fashions the human progress.

The human mind tries to find methods to know truth, by asking precise questions and framing right issues. It's all about re-

sults, the rigidity of religion has led to failure, it has made huge mistakes, let us not be protectionist, not even for good reasons. A religion protects something that belongs to the yesteryear.

The author of the universe is not God but natural forces. Things combine in concert by virtue of their inbuilt worth. There is neither heaven nor hell, nor is there anything like a soul to reap the hereafter. All ceremonies, rites and rituals have been invented by the priest for their own pecuniary benefit and devised for their selfish purpose.

The authors of religious scriptures were comical, crude and crinkle. Their vision was blurred. They condemned the religious traditions prevailing in the time they lived, knowing that believers followed the rouges and rascality, so they set up a new religion with lesser mischief.

Religions are hindrance to spiritual growth. Religions are the chief cause of the evils that trail humanity. Ever since that cause became a power almost 5000 years ago. The world was a better place before organized religions arrived 2000 years ago, and will be much better, after religions depart from the world, vowing never to come back again.

Religion was never founded by a spiritual leader. But by a charismatic leader who educated people about divinity. On his demise a crowd that subscribed to his thoughts erected monuments, fabricated a system of conception and canons, ritual and reverence, to pay memorial service and keep his legacy alive, an arrangement which was totally different from his teachings.

With time distorted religions turned out, to be a false perception of real wisdom. Religion is a means to an end, psychotherapy for the sorrows of life. Behind the rituals, superstitions and the idea of guilt and cleansing, it is the perverted priest craft that lay hidden to cheat the followers. Universal values live by itself, not by State laws, but by collective mutual agreement. If human values need the rule of law it has no meaning. Do we need to call upon the name of the founder of religion to impose the influence of religion over universal truth?

Some religions are the results of revelations, written and accepted as the memorandum of understanding from God to mankind to worship him totally and thus save their souls from

Hell. God's message is revealed to a prophet who reveals it to the people. The prophet ensures salvation of the people, only who obey God's commands and accept the prophet as his messenger.

The inventors of religions claimed divinity. Some claimed to be the son of God, some Gods messengers, some prophets sent by God, and some God personified avatars. Obviously, such teachings were a ploy to take a divine position. Pretenders even asserted that their teachings were Gods own word, and their message was the message of God so followers were not supposed to question them, even if, their message was fake and frivolous.

Has anybody seen or conversed with God who plays the leading role in all religions? Imaginary tales were scripted on the format of stage shows with a make-believe superman as the hero, and human mind was projected as a self-governing soul in existence, which had a separate entity and housed in human body, the body dies but soul does not, it takes birth in another body, this was another figment of human imagination. If religions mistake human mind as soul and the natural world as God, it is good. Otherwise, it is not worth, following fiction as fact.

Religions create false notions, and religious beliefs like God and Soul, a risky superstition that creates a priest and the church, as controllers of faith followers from their birth to death. Remove God and Soul the whole edifice of religious establishment will collapse. Man has been ruled by the authority of religion long enough. He must now learn to be ruled by his own principles. A progressive world needs to discard all religions and persuade people world over to follow spirituality or 'Satyadharma', where a man is called upon to govern himself by him.

Religion is the biggest threat to world peace. Nowadays the very thought of religion typify terrorism. It is bad to see people turn away from practicing morals to earning money. Even nations suffer from this syndrome and conduct themselves as merchants rather than defenders of human rights and human dignity.

If religion was the word of God than why did religions split into sects? In fact, some sects do exist within every religion, ex-

posing the reality that how unreasonable the concept of religion is. The compilers of Holy books did not script reality but reveled in a world of fantasy. If difference of opinion can lead to killing, between the associates of sects within a religion, then what message can such a religion give to its followers on brotherhood and love?

Religions are shrines of superstition, institutions of ignorance and bastions of brutality. Religion is the root cause of human misery, hatred and conflict. More people have been killed in the name of religion than for any other cause, or natural disasters or epidemics or world wars.

Religions have subdued scientific discoveries, as it contradicts the view of religion, on the creation of the universe. Science and technology has made human life comfortable in the last 100 years than religion has in the past 5000 years, then why do we need religion, rituals, priest and prayers? The travesty is that, the caretakers of religions, make full use of scientific technology, but resist the change of their mediaeval age Holy books. This is a height of hypocrisy. This obviously reveals their selfish agenda, which does not serve the interest of religions, except their personal plans t plunder for profits.

Human feeling for peace and harmony is natural, but traces of animal instincts in man, prevent it to unfold and manifest. Patience, tolerance and mutual respect for each other is the trigger to activate the core conviction of human compassion. Human race craves to aver principles of peace, righteousness and harmony to create a human civilization that sustains and enriches life on love, trust and brotherhood.

Religion has an astonishing hold on people. Followers of religions believe that religion serves a purpose. It gives meaning, hope and direction to their lives. But at the same time they should also recognize that religions did not fall on earth from the house of God lives in haven somewhere in the sky. Religions are outcome of a social vacuum. Religions came into existence in a society that vouched its value. But its ethos, customs and traditions, often come under protest, when it gets sullied, and moves away, from the path of righteousness.

Why religions are defended by its adherents by opposing

other faiths? No religion can claim monopoly so all religions are equal. The followers of religion behave alike. They discard the idea of one religion, reject that commonalities can work, and ridicule the initiative to launch a new religion. In this logjam the only workable solution, in such situation, is to nurture reciprocal tolerance for each other.

Religions must regard human values such as love, tolerance, kindness, and humanity as fundamental principles of their creed and not merely the acceptance of God and his messengers. Religion must never be used for inspiring hatred or instigating violence. Religion should be used and not abused. Religion should promote universal values of love, brotherhood, compassion and selfless services to mankind.

If God is nature then he has no religious identity. He cannot be confined to any religious institution. If religion means to search within and attain a higher human plane of a perfect being then it is worth following it. The inner journey reveals our real 'Self'. It explains our true nature and our relationship with the world. We are essentially blissful within. Harmony is the core of our personality, we can live a life of harmony, and harmony is a great unifying force. On realization of this truth, one sees that harmony is the fundamental principle that governs the whole cosmos, and energizing force permeating through all, irrespective of caste, creed, color or country.

In the course of observation, reflection and judgment, our primitive predecessors longed to understand the reality and meaning of life. Soon after, some eager people brought out their personal versions of truth in the name of beliefs. Beliefs developed from one to many, and eventually spread from an individual to a group, from a group to a community, from community to a nation, from one nation to many nations. In this process spirituality was lost. Not one but many religions were created with separate identities. These ambitious religious group sought power, and in the struggle of power religions started dividing people from one group to the other by killing, looting and converting losers to their brand of religion.

To promote morality religion instills a fear psychosis and helps shed the animal instincts in a man. A society bereft of

morality is led by jungle law. Religion can make a 'God' out of a man and take him beyond the limits of human perception, and connects man with his eternal spiritual nature. Such is the power of a clean and a neat religion.

Consciousness pervades the whole universe, it exists here and now, it existed in past, it will exist now and in future too. It establishes an eternal relation between man and God, God is a concept created to explain the existence of cosmic consciousness to a layman. God concept is absent in Buddhism or presented differently in other religions. When their symbolic similarities are recognized then differences between atheist and theist evaporates.

The progress and prosperity of mankind depends on nurturing nature and not by offering prayer to Gods created by religions. If there is a religion that promotes a harmonious relationship between man and nature, only then it can present the oneness of creation. Such a religion motivates people to love nature and inspires them to develop a sense of reverence and devotion to nature. The gospel of religion to love nature and not to harm any living creatures is worth following it. Universe is pervaded by life-force or cosmic breath or consciousness. It is this essence, which sustains the world and all living creatures residing on planet earth.

Religions should abhor violence, end wars and establish a peace on earth, for mankind to live with harmony. The horrors of world wars and frightening weapons of destruction are real. War is evil and must be abolished. People must learn to dwell together in peace. Still, we have not made provisions to make the world a 'No War' zone so far. As long we live in fear war will not vanish from earth. Only the message of oneness can remove this fear.

The grip and hold of religion will continue to strangle people as long they are born with a inherited religion. Why should everyone from birth be tagged to a religion? An imposed religion is surely an erosion of human freedom. It is thrust upon a child a without giving the chance to choose. Religion should not be an identification mark. The disassociation and not identification with a religion should start at home from the birth of a child.

Religions to be sure, try to reform a society, by providing positive ideals and values, but religious behavior is poles apart indeed. People adopt these ideals and values selectively, to protect personal interest and group interest, social mores and motivation, traditions and national expectations.

The eternal natural laws are not contradictory because they deal with reality about living beings. But even with its clear contradictions in the explanation of God created by religions, this weird and wonderful belief, has done a great service to mankind, in subduing his animal nature, and rendering him psychological protection, against the insecurities and uncertainties of life and death.

We live in a world where information flows freely. The intermingling and interaction between individuals and communities has increased manifold. This massive interface of mankind has set people's long suppressed nature to draw strength and criticize others, more freely and more openly, than ever before, with sensible explanations without fearing reprimand, in a world that is sailing rudderless in the ocean of data and information.

But when it comes to religion people tend to give their own version and blunt reasons, they close their minds, and slay the spirit of inquest to drift away from reality, and claim the chase of fantasy with much hue and cry. Religion must not be followed blindly in its present form. It must incorporate universal spiritual concepts to create a just and prosperous society. Religion is not just an expression of love for God. It should promote the message of goodness and oneness of mankind.

The faith in religion will gradually fade away from believers, and the disbeliever will never become religious activists now or in future. The educated people in the world know that there is hardly any evidence to support any reality in religion, except fiction and fantasy, yet this fact hasn't barred believers from believing in religion. What is intriguing is that, there is still, a hostile hunt for religious symbols, a rareness rallied rough by rouges and rascals.

Religions are conceptual and not concrete so they invent rituals, to put forward meaning and purpose, giving false assurances of a religious experience with unproved methods. These

complex rituals, symbols and everyday practices have become an inseparable part of people's life and their identity. Besides many other surreal elements are put together to reassure the followers that religion is something real.

Religion is identified with relics and artifact associated with the founder as a mark of respect. The holy book contains the word, the utterance of the word, by itself is holy, so the emphasis is more on reciting the word rather than following the word. The interpreter of the word is the priest, who presides over all important occasions in the lives of followers, under the grab of divine beneficence, extracting monetary benefits from them. Most religions have a central pilgrimage place, an attraction that exerts a powerful pull on its followers, which holds the religion together geographically.

The daily prayers and rituals remind the follower of his religion. Customs, festivals and fasts add religious meaning to religion showcased in showroom, with grand architectural structures like church, mosque, temple and pagodas. All this is done to spotlight religious identity and make it noticeable to all. Religions encourage displaying its belief system externally, by creating a separate appearance different from followers of other religions. Exclusivity does distance the followers of religions from each other.

Scientists and theologians have used science to prove or disprove religions, the attempt to prove religion through science is not only futile but complicated, but disproving religion through science is simple, indeed.

Rigidity blurs the vision. The law of nature coveys a strong message of change, the principles of reality is subject to change of opinion, under shifting time-zones. Rigid regulations in religion not to change create discord.

The residue of religion in believers and the doubt in non-believers are leftovers of thought process. Interfacing to exchange each other's viewpoints bridges the gap. All sets of models build variety, but only consciousness creates reality. In current situation the ancient religious views are mismatched and do not bode well for humanity. World is keen to know, the meaning and purpose of life, rather dwell in the abode of fantasy.

To counter religious fundamentalism, humanist and atheist enhance their stature, some nations come under the pressure of militants and become a theocratic state. The emergence of religion activism and born again faithful should be opposed, only the idea of 'Secularism' can overcome religious onslaught on cherished human values.

Democracy gives equal status to all citizens under a common law that pertains to all. But law enforced to cater religious groups, will result in social fragmentation. Laws must obliterate religious sentiments from the public domain, and enable the State to implement 'one rule of law' for all citizens.

Spiritual masters never wrote religious books, their followers put down their teaching in their own words, making religious belief a perfunctory practice. People even now follow religion as an obsessive ritual. A herd instinct, aversive to reason, has created social bitterness. We must use intellect, reason, mind and not maxim and mandate. The faithful are dogmatic, they go by holy word and miss out the essence and become rigid like rock, let people seek the spirit of the spiritual masters with an open mind.

It is but natural for people to value their religion, culture and language, this sense of belonging creates a community mood. But, at the same time we should also recognize the fact that this bonding becomes bondage. To prevent this, it is necessary for us, to respect the sentiments of other communities as well and inculcate a sense of togetherness and evolve strategies for the spiritual growth for mankind.

There is no disagreement between worldly and spiritual life. The human mind is spiritual. To survive human beings have to earn to live, money to rear up family, and connect with people socially. Even while earning we should not disconnect our spiritual nature. This is the only way to live reasonably and realistically.

Asia has been the cradle of many religions. Its civilization, cultural and spiritual resources, is rooted in the values of peace, harmony, justice, pluralism, oneness, coexistence, dialogue and non-violence, these worthy social values can rewrite the past and contribute to build a better future of the world as a whole.

Everybody is in search of reality. What we are looking is already there, ignorance prevents to discern the real, and to know is to be aware of the real. We can grasp the real within the limitations of human understanding. Reality is infinite. No word, no language can explain it fully. That's why expression of reality carries with it the abstract fictional element that allows reality to be perverted. Infinity and nothingness cannot be explained by logic, here spirituality steps in to help the seeker to explore the mysterious realm of the unknown.

Dialogical pluralism is a platform for people to speak about the ways in which they view the world to make it decent and dignified. It's an atmosphere of dialogue and mutual respect. This idea has failed to reach out to religious communities to ponder on the urgent need to reform religions to meet the expectations of people.

Secularism accepts diversity of religions, cultures and traditions. It has trans-cultural and inter-faith prospective. Diversity and democracy go well together, both are essential for peaceful coexistence. When liberalism and universality of ideas are spread, fundamentalism fizzles out, multiculturalism and multinationalism materializes. Democratic system and multiplicity, globalization, religious toleration, human rights and liberty are essential values for peaceful coexistence.

Globalization offers new identities, yet old identities respond to reassert. Educated people are shedding their religious personality. Every nation should ban religious identities. Faith is not practiced by outward display of religious signs. People without using religious symbols prefer a contemporary facade and are more faithful then those who adorn religious symbols just to show-off.

If religious leaders believe that a society deficient in religion can ascend to harmful human tendencies, then they should also think how to prevent extremist tendencies and terrorism prevalent in religions. They need to be receptive to other schools of thoughts and inculcate a broader perspective of a multi-religious culture. A multi-religious culture promotes religious liberalism and gives freedom in the choice of religions.

We can have the freedom to choose religions only if we en-

courage those with different religious views to freely propagate them otherwise religious liberalism is totally meaningless. Even rationalist and atheist must have the right to spread their views. If we take away the right to propagate, persuade and convert, then the whole notion of religious liberalism is shattered. We must accept the fact that religions along with atheism will survive as long human species does not accept Spirituality and discard redundant religions, it is ultimately wisdom that liberates, otherwise all school of thoughts are bondage.

Religion must address righteousness. People have to carefully understand what religion actually is and reject the false ideas and beliefs in a religion so that no one is misled. It is the duty of educated people to know what is true and false in a religion with impartiality and without any discrimination. First find out truth and than accept what is true and discard what is false.

If a religion is good than why do we have several religions? Why religions oppose each other? The simple reason is that religions are not in sync with each other. Had it been so there was no point to give different names to religion. The fact remains, that each religion is different and its teachings is divergent from one another. But the religion in which one is born is measured honestly as the best and other religions are considered as misleading and deceptive.

A seeker asked the priest, the pundit and the mullah, I do not follow any religion, which is the best religion I can embrace? Each answered 'my religion is the best all other religions are false'. He was not satisfied so he asked from a holy man, who said 'People will mislead and ensnare you in their net, take refuge in yourself or else you will repent', realizing religionist's are deceitful merchants of religion, who bragged about their own commodities. So, the seeker refused to accept any religion, and decided to follow Swadharma or spiritual values.

Religions are creation of ignorance. Religions are in conflict with reason. Religions mislead the ignorant and trap the foolish in their network. These poor, ignorant people fail to see the ephemeral objective of their lives and waste it in chasing the hypothetically lasting celestial things spread by religions. We should reject the false and recognize spirituality or Satyad-

harma is worthy to accept and pursue.

Religious leaders should support the spirit of inquiry. If discussions are not carried out, and eminent thinkers do not premeditate the feeling of friendliness for all, then it's out of question, to arrive at a conclusion on the suitability of religions. When pragmatism triumphs and pointlessness fails, then it's the duty of intellectuals to debate this issue in a sociable spirit, so as to facilitate mankind, to proceed on the path of progress.

The ignorant are quick to fall into superstition, empty rituals and brainless blunders. Society needs to save them from this kismet. The objective is to express disapproval of perverseness and rise to reason, to enable them, to weed out truth from falsehood. The intention is not to condemn any religion but to be on the side of truth.

Reasonable people accept tolerance and reject intolerance. The evil of hatred against each other is wrought by religious intolerance. It is unworthy of a human being to injure other human beings. The censure of religions is intended to lessen intolerance, inflexibility, distrust, hatred and useless bickering. The mind of a human being has an inbuilt ability to find out truth and discern what is right or wrong, so as to help one to tread the path of righteousness. The laws of nature triumph ultimately.

Among all species human beings are able to laugh. Oddly, religions are the biggest opponent of humor. People take their religion too seriously. Is religious conviction vulnerable to jokes? Sense of humor is a natural process to soothe frayed emotions. Laughter is an essential part of spiritual experience.

Life should be a blend of materialism and morality. Morality should not be under the charge of religion. Morality must be seen in a different perceptive and not as a monopoly of religion.

ABUSE OF RELIGIONS

Lack of understanding of one's or other's religion is dodgy and dangerous for communal harmony. Knowing well, these so-called religious leaders have exploited and misguided innocent people to create discord and dispute in society, provoking people to indulge in cruel acts of violence. People involved in acts of terrorism don't understand the real teaching of their faith. No

religion permits to plant bombs to kill innocent people. If it does, then it is not a religion but a manual to torture and a manifesto to create chaos and then grab power.

Any organization which is managed badly will fail to function properly. The institution of religion is mismanaged in the same way. Drastic changes are required to make it function well. Today the world stands divided on the lines of religion. There is a legitimate concern about the spread of fanaticism and fundamentalism in today's world.

The fundamentalist, godmen, charlatans, magicians, conmen, dodgers, trickster, criminals and mavericks under the guise of religious leaders have exploited the trust of the faithful and are spreading irreligion in the name of religion, giving falsehood and double standards a free hand. People have lost faith in religion.

The reasons to convert to another religion can vary. Some convert collectively along with other members of their caste or ethnic group, some for political or economic advantage and rarely to pick the religion they like. Often conversions bring changes in religious practices, by the culture traditions of the new enrollers.

The representatives of religion complicate religious matters with vested interest, so that followers are discouraged to question, to know reality and thus are left in a confused commotion, if they dare to find fault then violent methods are used to curb criticism, this makes religion irreligious by its own actions. It is here that the rationalist and the atheist are justified to take the position to disagree with what religions preach and practice.

The root of religion is morality, for politics it is power, so the combination of religion with politics is a deadly mix. Religion has often been used to give legitimacy to those in power in the past. Religion was used to justify wars, invasions, persecutions, slaughter and insurgency, pull down work of art, burn down libraries and run down civilization. When religion is used for political gains it turns down moral principles and becomes tainted.

When religion can give the right to use heinous crimes than the definition of that religion should completely change. We need to redefine such religions right now. Dubious religious preachers have converted religion into a brand of fanaticism

and their followers are willing to die for a religion, this is totally against ethics.

Morality has a universal appeal. When different moral considerations apply for different people then we lose morality and cease to be religious. The anger created in the name of religion by the fanatics by pitching one religion against another, leading to the clash of civilizations, which is frightening, indeed.

Fanatics are foolish. They believe killing innocent people belonging to other religions is a divine call for holy war, and a easy route to paradise. But when nations extend financial assistance and official support to terror tactics then it is fatally wrong. The world should unite and fight against this evil. This brand of militant religion operating from debased locations, backed by nation(s) is a potential danger to civilized society.

Modern technology is acceptable to religion. Religious places are tech-savvy. The cleric doesn't prefer to ride on a horse or a camel to travel but uses a car or an airplane. It is odd that the same priest, pundit and mullah refuse to accept any change in the medieval attitude of their religions. The world needs to promote a proper understanding of religion, with a mind to update them. Even the founders of religion in the past had fought against obscurantism and injustice then why are the present preachers too sensitive to bring changes in their outdated scriptures?

To make the principles of religious moderation operative, reason must prevail over religious injunctions. Evolution of important set of guidelines takes several shapes to modify, so it's imperative not to praise one's own religion or ridicule another's. Each person must honor the religion of others. By doing so each religion stands to benefit from each other or else its influence diminishes and becomes the cause of religious friction and conflict.

Is there something common amid diverse ideas? People view religion as a part social philosophy of life and at the same time it is improbable that one religion or one school of thought can answer all the questions of life wholly. Had it been so then there wouldn't be a need for another school of thought to ponder on.

The mystery of existence will remain unrevealed, that's why

deep ideas in religious literature are unbelievable. In fact basic questions on life, who am I, or on living, what is the purpose of my life, are either unanswerable or cannot be explained by words. He who is supposed to have all answers becomes an object of worship, his book, his idol, and his grave becomes an object of reverence. Devotion to know comes out of curiosity to know.

Fear, sex and greed are powerful human emotions. All religious institutions are managed by humans and hence it cannot remain untouched by these emotions. Its impact on religious institutions is vividly visible. The advantage of the amazing power religion has over people gives the preachers the confidence to combat criticism brutally, and don't hesitate to display powerful human emotions and its effect openly with pride.

Fanaticism is counterproductive it negates the essence of religious values. An ethical society shuns bloodshed and destruction. Let no one grade which religion is the best or the worst. The message that other religions are not on top, gives muscle to crusaders, jihadists, suicide bombers and dogmatic despots to take up arms to protect their religion in peril. No religion is superior to any other religion.

To keep their profitable enterprise intact, religious leaders create division among people, by claiming that only their religion is acceptable and not any other religion. Fanatics thrive on it. Going beyond a reasonable point they give wrong interpretations, stating all religions have same impulse is to deny others, their right to practice religion in their own way. The idea that everybody must believe in God is stretching too far the horizon of human thought. These are some areas that lead to disagreements and conflict.

The rule of the priest is through power and not by the merits of religion. He uses religion as a stratagem and makes it fanatical and authoritarian to keep him in power. We need to disconnect the priest, mullah and pundit from religion. Religion is for the followers of faith and not for brokers of faith who seek power.

Nowadays majority of followers of religion cannot read their Holy book. For that reason, they have started worshiping the

Holy Book. Nearly all Holy Books are written in a language which is incomprehensible to the followers who simply recite it as a ritual without understanding its meaning.

Rather reading the Holy Books, to understand its contents, followers lay emphasis on wrapping and unwrapping of the Holy Books with expensive, ornate silks, and brocades. Can worshiping a book lead them to enlightenment? Such wrong moves suggest that religion has lost its meaning. However, to run the organization, religion has turned into a business enterprise, supporting rituals and generating superstitions, to fund lavish lifestyles of its promoters, the priest, the mullah and the pundit.

The old version of religion preached by the clerics and the inherent vulnerability of religious scriptures to gross misunderstanding are surely signs of dissolution and distortion of Holy Books. Religion is being used as a tool by manipulators and terrorists to achieve their personal agendas and religion related conflict have become a part of our lives. Fanatics are governed by emotions. Emotions can lead to clash and reason to calm.

The slogan that religion is in danger is kept alive by the crafty religious leaders to arouse sentiments of the gullible followers to protect their leadership. By exploiting sentiments they produce potential fanatics, militants, terrorists and war makers. Emotions can motivate the naive to kill others. It is, indeed a matter of concern, that terrorism still remains the biggest menace in the world. World leaders should wipe out this nuisance and halt the gruesome murder of the innocents.

Obsessed by foolish belief in the superiority of their religion and exaggerated reaction of grievance against followers of other religions, innocent young men are mind washed by hammering the philosophy of hate by trouble mongering mentors, who are enemy of humanity. A number of religious schools are breeding grounds for fanatics and places of worship are misused to spread religious hatred. Hating and killing each other in the name of religion is depressing and saddening.

When we resist change we invite criticism. Critics are the agents of change. They compel us through their persistent criticism to research, renovate and renew our ideas and beliefs afresh. A world without critics is a world without change and

change is the fundamental law of nature. Criticism is a force to confront the status quo. Healthy criticism pushes us towards excellence.

Criticism is essential. It provides a point of view. Criticism should always be welcomed. We need a constant evaluation of religion. Religion imposed on followers choke creativity and the joy of freedom is lost. Beliefs are product and not the patent of the human mind. Religion does not deserve loyalty but a change.

There are theocratic countries where they keep a tab on people belonging to other religions. They force conversion or imprison or kill followers of other religions setting a bad example of a narrow-minded faith? And there are even such priests who issue holy diktats on non-religious issues like how to dress and make-up. Never has frivolity acquired such seriousness, something so unreal and weird.

Religious conflicts are diluted through inter-faith dialogue. It is difficult to arrive at the real religious differences without moving away from one's own faith. To avoid, religious leaders resist, exchange of ideas and keep their campaign alive to protect religious freedom in public domain, and pay no attention to settle issues like terrorism and conversions through inter-faith dialogue. Humanity can live in peace only if it develops harmonious relations with each other, despite religious differences.

World must move towards spirituality, even if, globalization has amplified a religious fellowship among people. The old tradition imposed on children to inherit religion from their parents and not through the choice to learn must be discarded. If children in schools are taught all religions of the world as a subject of study it would empower them at the early stage of their intellectual development. Beware, the impression gained in formative years built the foundation on which the human personality evolves.

Learning to display devotion and perform rituals tends to carry on from childhood to adulthood. If the tender mind of a child during formative years is drilled with particular information and repeatedly made to memorize, it will not help the child to understand the real essence of religious knowledge. A revival of religiosity among the questioning and critical thinking young

people is a sign of hope. Spirituality or Satyadharma is an option which is better than religions. So we should all welcome an alternative, essential for world peace.

In a world were basic resources are inadequate, the use and accumulation of limited resources is at the cost of impartiality. Therefore, the economic models for social justice and equality have failed. To keep the deprived engaged elsewhere, exploiters kept their minds occupied, with religion and god, promising them justice afterlife. Religions are enemy of human rights and lack domination in a democratic system.

The language in which religious books were written is dead, it's no more in use currently, despite having lost its relevance, and the custodians of religion struggle to keep the meaningless, worn-out content unchanged, because the scope for improvement is unacceptable to them. It is a fact that Sanskrit and Latin, the chosen language for some of the religious texts, are no more a living language.

Religious services are now being outsourced, rituals are being relocated, and priesthood is on decline with fewer people seeking it as their livelihood. There are places where 'e-religion' is booming, catering a plethora of religious services to its followers worldwide.

Mass media and the internet are playing a significant role to expand the religious space in the global society and cultivating a sense of congregational bond that transcends national boundaries and creeds. Outsourcing is nothing new in the domain of religions. Buddhism was outsourced to Japan by China.

Due to awareness organized religions for masses will fade. New age individual-centric spiritualism will emerge. Many adherents of electronic media aver that next prophet will manifest on the internet.

The written books on religion have a tendency to become rigid. Envisioning flexibility to give changes a freehand, the religious masters of the east particularly India, preferred to teach their disciples orally, rather than create a written record of teachings. Their disciples preserved their teaching through memory and transmitted orally from one generation to another generation. This was a magnificent method developed by them

to discard the outdated and update it on a regular basis, from time to time, because they knew rules change with time.

There are no revelations nor divine messengers nor any supernatural power that rewards or punishes. There is life and struggle to live. Intolerance is an enemy of religion. All religions are fine. One must not blindly believe any religion but one must accept religion with a reasonable mind. Discard superstitious rites and ceremonies, meaningless sacrifices and penances for ones purification, it's a waste of time.

Civil and criminal laws are amended, from time to time, to be in tune with time, even the laws which are applicable today are not faultless, even if, they are rational currently. For the protection of laws, justification to amend and prescribe new laws, can always to be questioned, so what is wrong in applying these principles, to make rigid religions flexible to change and relevant to time. There is a vast gap between medieval age and the modern age line of thinking. Why turn back the clock to keep status quo?

Battle cries to go on Holy war, invade, loot, kill, rape, conquer and raze down cities was barbaric and not a saintly act carried out by the expansionist religions, forcing their religion on others, by armed confrontation, thus slaying the soul of brotherhood, and keeping the campaign of hate alive. We need to mend these pig-headed situations of slaughtering people in the name of religions.

Religions suited the social structure where local priest rationalized the intangible claims made by religion, and devised ways to attack other religions to create fear in the minds of the people. With such tactics religions have no future. Its influence is waxing and waning, like a flickering flame struggles before it burns out.

The support to religion is a continuing trend. History changes with time but can also repeats itself, after a lapse of time. Let the rigmarole of change reverberate to remove the wrong practice of religion and bring back the time tested wisdom of spirituality. Religion has swapped its core spirituality in the marketplace. Religion should dwell around the needs of the people rather than on abstract principles, superstition and rituals.

Religious activists motivate people to spread their religion. It has nothing to do with the believers of other religions. Therefore, there are some religious beliefs, offering rewards for killing people, belonging to other religions. In such a situation, it is impossible to live in a multicultural, multi-religious society and at the same time practice secularism. This is a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

No religious organization should be allowed to operate under any sort of immunity whatsoever. It should not violate existing laws of the land or oppose public policy or international conventions. Some organizations are already in existence, the regulators of law must ascertain, whether people are associated with them by freewill or under the good or evil compulsion of the organizers, to promote or prevent religious goodwill or militancy.

Killing people in the name of religion has happened in the past, it hasn't stopped, and is happening now, if not stopped now, it will happen in future too. This illustrates a very chronic religious behavior. Intense beliefs produce intense hostility. The history of religion is a horror story. Atrocities in the name of religion are deplorable, so the educated people find religions disgusting.

Promoters of peace are not supposed to condemn religious terrorism in a selective manner. They ought to punish the guilty without compromising human dignity and human rights. Those who claim license to promote world peace must not crack whip on those who do not listen to them. It is distressing to see that condemnation of terrorism and violence is biased and not same in one voice universally. Terrorism is not denounced nor treated on equal footing across the world, world needs to agree and not disagree.

Majority thrashing the minority is universal. Minority becomes remorseful about their religion when pitched against the religion followed by the majority. Hindus are seen as idol worshippers of snakes and monkeys, Muslims as crusaders waging a holy war, Christians as missionary out to convert people of other faith to Christianity and Buddhist as escapist. This symbolic role casting is sheer nonsense. This thoughtless stereotyping serves to strengthen the forces of fundamentalism.

Our objective is to beat the terrorist of all faiths by isolating them. Terrorist have no religion, no nationality and no ideology. Terrorism is not confined by borders. We cannot declare a particular nation guilty for terrorist acts. When nations are linked with religion, they truly become dangerous. We need stringent laws and enforcement machinery. Modern legal system must promise social equality, religious tolerance and non-discrimination to end this menace.

The saga of religion is the history of religious persecutions and Holy wars, the followers of religion to prove their zeal for God, threw the bodies of their fellowmen in the burning flames. With the aid of swords, guns and money religion was spread, not by its merit, but by deceitful methods.

The outward form of displaying religious symbols and dress code is common by Godmen. A Godman wears a holy garb, but keeps his mind immersed in worldliness. A Godman who dwells on religion and yet coverts worldly vanities is a worldling, while the man in worldly garments who lets his mind soar to divine thoughts is a holy man. There is hardly any distinction between a layman and the Godman.

Religious delusion comes from Holy books. It is not the fault of the terrorist but the responsibility of the priest, who misleads them. We can leave the wicked to their fate and their evil deeds will soon come to an end. But terrorist are not wicked people they have been misguided by the religious leader to commit heinous crimes by rewarding a luxurious life in heaven immediately after they sacrifice their life to their protect religion.

Religions have undermined faith by forcing its way through endless fantasy. It has raised fundamentalism and nurtured terrorism, which is a real threat to world peace, thus ruining the image of religion. This is creating a new ground for religious thought. Will spirituality or Satyadharma produce a constructive effect in the mess created by religions? The process has begun. There are several schools of thoughts. Yet, the grip of religion and God has not weakened. Therefore spirituality is the best option to replace religions

Religion is often used as a tool to create hatred. Doubt comes from useless ideas spread by religions. Religions have become

one of the most dangerous forces, a problem and threat to modern society. The time has come, for mankind to decide, and accept, world would be a better place, without religions.

The world of old religions cannot satisfy the mind of educated people. People look for answers in present-day language. Our generation refuses to grow under confused thoughts. There is a natural law that operates as 'Cosmic Consciousness', which reveals itself to seekers as they grow, from one level of understanding to another level of thinking. Silence is vague so to explain in words or whispers or by signs or symbols, cast a shadow on its bearing and non literal metaphors. The natural law of nature operating at non-physical level is hard to put in writing.

TRIVIALITY OF RELIGION

Going back in time, reliving olden times of religions, we observe all editions of holy books have lost its relevance, and the proof of its truth is buried in past, in a state of no return. The biggest paradox is that the practitioners of religions use modern technology and stick to their medieval religious books. The challenge before mankind is to replace redundant religions with a new faith that is in sync with contemporary time and current social order.

Religion is becoming dangerous for socio-communal harmony because it is rude to other faiths. This lapse has been exploited by perpetrators to create conflict in society by acts of violence. It is shocking to note that some Holy Books permit their follower to kill the followers of other religions, offering rewards for the unholy act. Religions have failed to promote understanding, social justice, peace and freedom.

Religions institutions like any other institute have been misused and are likely to be misused now and in future too, before its basic functional aspects are not drastically changed. To-day the world is separated on the lines of religion, race, nationality, language, culture etc. There is legitimate concern about the growing religious fanaticism and fundamentalism in society, overshadowing the positive aspects of religion as a personal faith.

Faith should be a pure vehicle to propagate religious beliefs.

But the lunatic fundamentalist, Godmen, charlatans, magicians, conmen, dodgers, trickster, criminals and mavericks under the guise of religion exploit, corrupt, vulgarize, criminalize and commercialize the trust of the faithful and spread irreligion in the name of religion, giving lies, hypocrisy and other vices a free hand, instilling insanity in the minds of the people who follow them.

The reason for embracing a religion is not one but many. Some embrace it collectively along with other members of the same caste, tribe and nation; some embrace it for political or economic advantage, and some rarely after liking the religion. More often than not, their social structure does not change, it remains the same, but religious practices do change. Is the basis of religion morality or an ideology?

There is an inherent problem when religion and politics is mixed. In the course of history, religion has been used, to give legitimacy to those in power and exercise that power. Religion was used by the State to justify wars and conquests, persecutions, atrocities, rebellions, destruction of works of art and culture. When religion is used to pander political whims, it foregoes its high moral ideals and become debased by the political agendas.

This reminds the old adage, 'He who knows does not speak, He who speaks does not know'. Religion has become a commodity, the brand of 9/11 terror attack was the most heinous crime in history under the garb of religion; it has completely changed the definition of religion, which now needs to be redefined. Dubious religious preachers have converted religion into an abhorrent brand of extremism and their followers are willing to embrace death, sadly, the origin of terror culture based on religious beliefs is totally opposed to the basic principles of morality.

Why different moral considerations apply to different people in the situation of moral dilemma? Truth is one. Consequently, as soon as we lose the source of moral principles, we cease to be religious. The upheaval created by continuous terrorist strikes has numbed the civilized world, and the backlash echoes 'one religion versus other religion', is this 'frenzy and fury' or

leading the world to the 'clash of civilizations'.

Today, there is bloodshed everywhere, bomb blast has become a routine, and thousands of civilians die in the name of religion. This has left the whole world shell-shocked. At present, all of us have to unite to save earth from further destruction, and fight against terror. In the vicious ideology of holy war, sadistic conditions are created for the terrorists to treat all those who do not belong to their religion as their enemies.

There are many nations who give financial assistance and official support to terrorism. The misled terrorist and their handlers have the audacity to believe their wicked actions are the route to paradise. The terrorist are a misguided lot, fighting a Holy war, killing and maiming million of harmless innocent people, on their way to work or returning back home.

The fight against terrorism is a fight against evil. We need to get organized to combat it. Otherwise, persons of evil disposition and low character will continue to spread their terrorist activity, and those who succumb to their brand of religion will be governed by ignorance making them merciless, vindictive, greedy, discontented, arrogant, hypocritical, quarrelsome, deceptive, untruthful, idle, dull, cruel, sorrowful, lusty, disillusioned, gluttonous, wretched and full of fear, these people who are growing in number can be a potential danger to society. The need is to educate them and impart the true meaning of religion.

Religious places are tech-savvy, and preachers too, who do not like to ride a horse or a camel to travel but prefer to use a car or an airplane. Sadly, the same people resist reforms, which naturally come over a period of time, to change the old practices useful in present times. Fanatics create violence and civil disorder. We need to promote true understanding of religion, with a mind to reform religions and not that which protects obscurantism and injustice against which the founders of religion fought. Now why do the present preachers get so edgy? Hatred never cease through hatred, through love alone it ceases. This is eternal law. Thus, with little sharing caring and love, we can surely make this world a better place, for all of us, to live in peace.

The progress of essential doctrine takes many forms but it's

aim is to control one's conduct, and not to extol his religion or disparage another's religion. On each occasion one should honor others religion. By doing so one increases the influence of one's religion and benefits that of the others, or else, one diminishes the influence of one's own religion and harms other religion. Therefore, concord alone is meritorious. Ashoka the great in his 2300 year old edict leaves the present governments of the world, far behind in its maturity, advising them how the operative principles of religious tolerance work. Commonsense must prevail over religious injunctions.

Is the commonality of ideas identifiable in religions? Or else. What makes each religion unique? Religion is not a distinct social philosophy of life, otherwise existentialism, and many other significant philosophies of life, would qualify as a religion. It is unlikely that one religion or one school of thought can answer all the questions then there wouldn't be a need for another school of thought to egg and engage to deliberate on it.

If questions were answerable in simple accessible terms then the most impenetrable ideas found in some religious scriptures would be laughable, indeed. It would appear that the basic questions are either unanswerable or at least cannot be transmitted sensibly. Hence, anybody who is supposed to have the answers becomes an object of reverence for having found the answer. They are seen as the leveler of the high and the low mental turmoil.

Fear and greed are the two most powerful human emotions and religious institutions managed by humans are untouched by these emotions. The man managed religious institution like all other institutions may do everything to maintain hegemony, or deal with corruption, which is bred by the amazing power it has over people, so opposing any school of thought that threatens its pride and place is not difficult to deal with.

Fanaticism is dangerously counterproductive because it negates the very essence of religious values. One cannot be religious and vicious at the same time. Religion shuns violence and destruction. If each religion is allowed to believe it's the best, it will strengthen hardliners to send terrorist and spread terrorism. Only the bigoted oppressors persist that their religion is supe-

rior to all other religions.

Religious leaders create tension among followers of different religions by insisting those to believe their religion is true and rest all other religions are false. Endorsing wrong thinking is against social norms, and by pushing it beyond a reasonable point, the consequences turn into erroneous interpretation and inspiration. Judging that all religions vibrate the same impulse is to deny others right to practice their religion and to impose the idea of God upon other or to insist everyone must believe in God, leads to disagreement and conflict. Using religion as an ideology makes it intolerant. Religion is for the lovers of faith and not for dealers of faith.

Some religious leaders take up frivolous issues, declaring toys and dolls as threat to morality, and toys revealing cloths are offensive to their religion. Such conservative interpretations of religion are signs of perversion. Religion has been reduced to the level of manipulators and terrorists to achieve their personal agendas. The rise of fundamentalist groups, the strife among various ethnic and religious groups indicates religion related conflict has become a part of people's life world over. What a shame.

Fanaticism and terrorism are flash-points of grievances carried to extreme excesses. We need to avoid excesses and follow a moderate path. No case or argument is strong enough to be an excuse for any excess to break peace. All human being are charged by one and the same life force. He who realizes this never becomes a fanatic. If sentimentalism can become a cause of conflict than by reasoning we can bring peace. Sentimentalism becomes a motivating force to justify killing others for the love of religion, while terrorism takes a ghoulish pleasure in the murder of innocent helpless people.

That terrorist and terrorism appeals a section of people is evident from the praises bestowed by religious groups. Driven by an irrational belief in the supremacy of their religion and by an equally mindless feeling of atrocities against them, so young people are drawn towards the philosophy of hate, some religious schools and institutions are suspected to be the breeding grounds for religious militancy.

We should dismiss the notion that a particular religion is to be blamed for global terrorism, in the face of supporting beliefs recorded in their holy books. Because it's true that most of the religious leaders preach hatred. As such the argument to discredit one particular religion of the world is unfair.

The one, who talks about change, and his relentless criticism forces society to introspect, re-think and re-invent the future course of action. Critics are the change-agents of history. Who compel through their persistent criticism, to research, renovate and renew obsolete ideas and beliefs. They rid us of clichés and complacence and force us to recognize the need to change. A world without critics would be a world without change, for dialectic history rests on the power of criticism. Criticism is not betrayal but a force to confront the status quo, and not a fascist fantasy, where no one questions authority.

In fact, healthy criticism is the single-most powerful weapon of change that relentlessly pushes society towards excellence. In eastern philosophy denial and negation is the first step towards self-realization. It is they who have challenged conceit and complacency, and sought substitute solutions, therefore, never accept, anything blindly, be it defeat or success. Therein lays our strength. Therein lies our future.

Criticism is essential, without it, we are rudderless. Criticism provides us an alternate perspective, criticism must be welcomed, and it's valuable, because constant evaluation is essential for us to grow. Even if, it hurts, dealing with critics is a greater accomplishment, and criticism is inspiring too. Ethics are necessary to adhere, and so are self analysis, corrective criticism, and critical thinking. At the end of the day, it's a free world, we all want to live in, and spend our life in happiness and harmony together.

Religion imposed on followers stifles creativity, whereas the freedom of spirituality brings immense joy. Imposition is a burden that can torment and lead to self-destruction. Therefore, never dictate or force ones views on others, what they must or should perceive, instead encourage them to reveal their own perceptions to build a creative spirit. Mind is the factory of thoughts that produce products and not patents.

Religion does not deserve unswerving loyalty. It deserves much more than that. It deserves openness. Where anyone can question and challenge others point of view, without having their motives questioned. That is the only way to move towards truth, by cheering dissidence, encouraging doubt, allowing criticism and the brave to put up opposing views unhesitatingly.

Amusingly, there are mullahs who issue fatwa's on fashion, reprimanding that patronizing beauty parlors is an irreligious act. They permit women to wear make-up, but do not allow them to remove their hair by waxing or bleaching or wear men's clothes or colored contact lenses. Is using latest gizmos, plane and car profane and a blasphemous act? Never has frivolity acquired such profundity in an erroneous evangelical pitch.

During religious conflict, inter-faith dialogue must be initiated to discuss consequences of religious differences. Inter-faith dialogue is still, not possible, without putting faith, in the mode of divergence of opinions. Pope, pundit and mullah, resist saying intercultural dialogue deepens cultural consequences of religious ideas. Why such important issues are not confronted in public forum? Why terrorism is not condemned? Why religious freedom is not protected and issues of conversions addressed? How can we know the truth about how can we with equality and fairness live, despite our creedal differences?

There is a trend towards spirituality, and a wide range of societal activity has begun world over. Empowering children at this point in time, by drilling religion and repeatedly memorizing religious data is totally improper; ideas imposed in the shaping years on a Childs mind aren't easily forgotten. Society and the State needs to prevent this from happening and hail spirituality.

We ignore the issue of economic inequalities and social justice. In the world were basic resources like water, air and land is limited, so why should the rich use these resources for recreation, at the expense of the poor, and why keep the poor from understanding all this and engage them with 'Religion' and 'God'. No one genuinely supports the poor. As long religions exercise their rights and stay longer the worse it is for the poor living on false notions.

It isn't hard to recognize, languages have evolved due to lin-

guistic churning, spawning a new expression. The language in which religious books were written has changed, but the content in religious scriptures continues to be the same, despite the language has lost its relevance. Sanskrit is the oldest language, it died as a living language in 100 BC, however Sanskrit continued like Latin as the preferred language for writing religious texts.

Muslims are the most misunderstood community. Without acquiring adequate knowledge of Islam people mock even the most revered personalities held in high esteem by millions of Muslims. When Muslims react in a state of anger and desperation they are branded as fundamentalist and terrorist. Ignoring the mainstream thinking of Muslims, outsiders judge them by the bigotry of a handful of individuals who are misled by Mullahs.

It's a fact, religious beliefs like crusade, jihad etc are the cause of terrorist activities. Legal justice promises social equality, religious tolerance and non discrimination so our goal should be to defeat terrorist belonging to all faiths by isolating them. Ideologies, religious beliefs and crime are not confined by borders, so we cannot say for sure which nation is responsible for terrorist acts. But, when nations are linked with religion they are very dangerous, indeed. Terrorist may not come from outside, they can be home grown. So, all we need is stringent laws and enforcement machinery. Terrorist have no respect for life, they have no nationality and no philosophy. They are blind to reason and can sacrifice their life to protect their religious beliefs.

THE ROBE & THE ROUGE

The greatest exploiters of religion are the self-styled Godman. They call themselves guru, swami, mystic, baba, bapu, bhagwan, brahamchari, maharishi, sadguru and so on by never-ending names. There is never a shortage of charlatans in any religion. But In India they are available dime a dozen in all seasons. They wear a robe, grow a beard and support a hairdo as a trademark, and use religion to build their credibility, character and capital.

Religions rest on the foundation of lies and not on reason, so the Godman promise supernatural rewards, offers hope to

ward off the hardship of life, fears, uncertainty, helplessness and hopelessness, increase bank balance, enhance power, give promotions, fame and what not, in exchange of money and total faith in them. Religions have sufficient gaps for these dubious characters to fill in; their sole purpose is fraud and not service to mankind.

There is a vacuum in everyone's life, so something seems to be missing. Misplaced faith can lead people to believe an uneducated conman in the garb of a holy robe is a supernatural being. This is where wonder of the weird, the Godman enters. The ignorant see them as special person with divine powers. But, In fact, he is a charlatan preying on human helplessness, promising solutions at a cost, by trading spurious ideas as indisputable.

When people are dissatisfied with their lives they need to believe in something that can relieve their frustrations and depression. That's when the Godman gives them hope and offers divine placebos. Blind faith and trust defies all reasons so people believe in what the Godman says, and accept as true the dream he promises to manifest.

People who are successful are the most vulnerable of all. They fear failure because they cannot handle it. That's why they believe in any superstition, The Godman, the amulets, the gemstones and astrology, the Godman to be where they are, hope gives them the courage to face the insecurities and the uncertainties of life.

Life is full of suffering. Countless desires remain unfulfilled and life comes to an end with death. With hopefulness life is no more tormenting or tragic but an optimistic pursuit, which can go to higher level of understanding beyond the reality of our world. The Godman claims to hold the key to the door that gives access to this higher reality, full of miracles, which offers happiness and bliss, dreams they sell at a high cost. That's why in India the rich denote huge amounts to Godman, in temples, but not for free education to uplift the poor. How foolish they are.

The human attraction towards the mysterious is stretched out to far over complex celestial causes as stupidity above reason. The Godman exists because of people's faith in his power as a healer and not for the reason to gain knowledge of scrip-

tures or to obtain spiritual wisdom, even the Godman doesn't know about it.

In the religious marketplace there is a gang of Godmen, each marketing a different brand of divine solutions. They offer quick fix solutions to all problems. They offer the manna for the mind, balm for the body and salvation for the soul, and help their brainless and dim-witted followers achieve all that they desire like, money, women, status, mansions, fame, position etc, a tall order, indeed.

Many Godmen mesmerize to manage the minds of their followers and rob their wealth and ruin them financially and emotionally. Many have been caught by the camera performing simple magic tricks with the sleight of hand beneath the cover of divine miracles.

The followers of Godmen are pretentious and suffer mental disorders as a result of pursuing foolish teachings taught to them by the Godmen. When these followers realize their stupidity than they find too hard to face reality and take the route of escapism, drinking alcohol or taking drugs and ruin their future.

Today, there are many rogues masquerading as masters, who intentionally freeze the freethinking of followers. They jolly well know, it's difficult for the followers to tell the difference between real and false master so in this state of mind followers are time and again deceived easily by the Godman.

Rouges under the garb of Holy men are now a part of our social system and that is worrisome indeed, they mislead naive and the easy to fool people to accept as true that their problems of life can be solved by their mumbo-jumbo. The troubled human mind accepts the Godman as the panacea of all human ills. The Godman sells hope to his helpless followers as merchandise is sold in the bazaar of religious beliefs and miracles.

We live in a world of cheaters and the cheated. There countless charlatans to have, those who think seeking others blessings can magically transform their lifestyle. Sense of divinity should not be left to the fad of bearded anchors who claim to be in touch with God directly. No one can save a fool from his foolishness.

Godmen are clever psychologist and exploit human weak-

nesses, extract money from foolish followers, and live a luxurious life without earning by their sweat and brow. Their followers shell out money to buy peace of mind, but in turn get more unrest and agony than they suffer before. Law should protect people being misled by Godmen.

Some Godmen own T.V. channels and business empires, some Godman appointed Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers of a bizarre organization for global governance, even printed currency notes to finance aid programs in developing countries. One wonders with such stupid pranks Godmen can attract the elite and the intellectuals of the society. God willing, his disciple is a leading international Godman.

Godmen are stress therapists. To attract followers they use all types of entertainment like pimping, providing free sex, magic, music, pomp and show, drugs, yoga, breathing exercise, meditation, silky smooth talk, with velvet voice, and singing hymns to relax their followers in palatial fortress with best amenities called ashram.

Sex is for procreation, no training is required, even the animals do it instinctively but for perverts it's a pleasure. Many Godmen urge their followers to have free sex to reach the state of super consciousness. Tantric claim the power of Kundalini enables an individual to move sexual energy into spiritual channels. This demeans the plan of union with the divine. So, set apart sex from spiritualism, sex has no role to play in spiritual ascent.

We are surrounded by those who shape our emotions and actions. They use their rank and reputation to compel others to carry out their chosen plan. They are the 'Opinion-makers'. They fuse knowledge, experience, personal charisma, and the understanding of human issues. It is true opinion-makers and not the Godman enjoys the admiration and emotional support from the educated people.

People have spent a life time with Gods name on their lip but they have hardly felt his presence. The absence of God in fact starts right from the time people begin to pray, they live in a continuous state of spiritual pain till death. Their tormented mind fails to find God so they themselves doubt his existence.

The Godman also lives with this deep set discrepancy. But as a con artist he masquerade his personal and public demeanor to hoodwink people. His discourses are also engaged in verbal deception. He laughs and weeps as if his heart is in love with God. Being a hypocrite he depicts self-contradictions. What he speaks is completely different from what he does. He lives in a blurred reality of darkness. These conditions are not conducive for spiritual evolution for the Godman or his followers.

Godmen entice and entrap seekers. Goodman's dangerous designs are not visible until it is too late. Godmen are simply after money and nothing else. Spirituality does not dependent on salesmanship. But Godmen are more like salesmen and less like a hermit, cajoling and coercing people to sell vague promises to them.

A real Holy man does not preach for money he lives a simple life. Today lot of image building goes to make a fine looking Godman, who is totally commercial and demands donations from people, accepts expansive gifts and lives a king-size luxurious life, he occupies decorated thrones in massive halls and reaches out to millions viewers through television. He is a smooth talker, superficial, shallow, hypocrite, and inept to set his disciples free from sufferings. However, the elite engage Godman to enhance their social standing, and politicians seek them as a vote bank. There is hardly any spiritual pursuit in these activities.

Myths were created to define the mystical. All faiths proclaim Avatars, Prophets and God will descend on earth from heaven to communicate directly with mankind, this is an ancient belief held closely by followers of all religions. In this 'Gap' Godman time and again try to fit into, to exploit trusting believers.

There are Godmen among us, who on the sly bring disparaging deviation of ethics and spirituality and people follow their wicked and wrong ways. These shameless Godmen propagate a doctrine of their own and having entered religious life, they do not cease from committing sins, and drive others to commit sins. Even perfect murders are executed at their behest and victims remains buried or burnt in the ashram.

Abstract religious concepts offer a plethora of opportunities to manipulate and deceive innocent people. Godman use this

conceptual slide and slip fully. Godmen have polished and fine-tuned the art of fine deception to a great stature, making people less tolerant to reality and more obsessed with Goodman's falseness and fallacy. Criticism is stifled. Protest is profanity, only the praise to Godman is allowed. Under this protective shield it is easy for imposters to fabricate and spread a number of contradictory creeds and mislead innocent people.

The 'Pop' creed is becoming more and more a means of escape for the youth disheartened by religious beliefs. Discourses and meditation have become default replacements, for institutional support structures, like counseling centers. World should support social processes, by popularizing universal spiritual values, through State machinery rather than retreating back to religions.

Some Godman was fond of using laughing gas to infuse happiness and laughter on the sad faces of his depressed disciples, some Godman chose to perform tricks straight from a magic book rather than preach theology. Even the Goodman's hair-dos, facial hair, beard, whiskers and dress code has become a trademark not teachings, picked up randomly by from here and there, without understanding it, yet their words create impact on a dumb audience.

Meditation and Yoga are relaxation exercises. Godman as a deceitful dodger make yoga look cumbersome and tedious only to justify the money he can extract from his disciples, the value for money, otherwise, is a simplistic set of exercises, which can be learned from a trainer, but the Godman have made a big business out of it.

We need a regulatory authority to deal Godman with stringent laws. Why corrective measures are not taken? Why state laws are not set up to enforce punitive action on those who under the grab of a holy man con innocent and trusting people? When will the state get up from its self induced slumber to deal with the reality of religions?

An amulet or a locket or magical charms cannot ward off misfortune. All these are false and superstitious practices, which people should not pay attention to. The alchemists, the magicians, the sorcerers, the wizards, and the God man are cheats.

People, society, State and law should expel and eliminate them from the social order. Their knowledge and conduct brings misery to people, economically, mentally and physically.

People are gullible so they are vulnerable. The Godman openly plays on the gullibility of innocent and trusting people. The Godman should neither be trusted nor served. They put on show the staging of virtue, but do not practice any virtue themselves and cheat others in the name of virtue. They are greedy, deceitful and show offs, such wicked persons should be considered as rouges, rascals and rapists.

A glimpse of the Godman or his presence is considered holy by the devotees. This is falsely preached by a gang, who spread false reports of the Godman that he is a storehouse of divine energy and so being in his presence or his sight on any devotee, can remove his problems, unburden his sorrow and rejuvenate him with joy.

In terms of verbal communication, the Godman is often, an eloquent and fluent fine orator, speaking with a sweet tongue, but wears a mask of virtue over a crafty and a corrupt mind, which dwells on dirt to divert and defile truth and wisdom of the sages. Followers trust the Godman but the Godman is full of mistrust.

Godmen are wealthy and live a luxurious life because they know how to trade religion profitably, they drill in the minds of innocent people that religion is the panacea of life, and they are Godsend custodians of religion. The conventional conditioning and the culture of silence on religious matters make their wicked ploy work, and fools follow and serve them like slaves. Religious matters should not be protected at the risk of being cheated. Everyone goes through the process of refutation, before anyone can expose a Godman.

Personal efforts are essential in the pursuit of self-realization. Many seekers go to the Godman for guidance but his teaching does not satisfy them, and their search to find the sagacious one goes in vain. They read books, reflect over them, and relate to suggestions, but eventually on the path of self realization, one has to walk alone, like a rhino. There is no guru-disciple involvement on this path. It is said Godman is a trickster who sits

by river bank selling water in plastic bottles. Anybody can go directly to the river and fetch water, without going to Godman. This analogy suggests that the seeker has to walk alone on the spiritual path to attain self-realization.

When spiritual urge grows, a seeker tends to knock the door of the Godman. Once in his commune, going with the hype, he starts worshipping and obeying the Godman. Eventually he realizes the buildup of covert activities contrary to what is being preached. He gives up being fooled and realizes that one should follow his own-self rather than seek external assistance and outside authority.

Sex, money and murder and other scandals are linked with the Godmen. They are the biggest liars, thieves, bullies and sex addicts, hiding under the cloak of a holy man, and manage multimillion dollar assets, by trading religion. They cheat people. They are lazy at leisure, chronic sex addicts, and uneducated good for nothing unemployed people coming from disturbed families who don the robe as rogues to extract money from the pockets of trusting people. People should stop going to Godmen for guidance and blessings. Remember a real Holy man will never deceive people, nor will he seek their favor, nor mislead innocent people, to earn name, fame or money.

CHAPTER 18

Reform Religions
The State As A Saviour

Statistical surveys reveal that the majority of human race is not religious.In spite of this, we cannot think about a world without religion.

Faith in religions will stay and conflicts in the name of religion will continue, unless State intervenes voluntarily to remove all religions from the world and enforce Spirituality or Satyadharma. The State is the conscience keeper of the people. All religions in the world were State sponsored. Religions have flourished and continue to prosper even now due to direct or indirect support of the State.

Innocent people in the name of religion are killed and the State is a mute spectator to this slaughter. Why religions are kept off the record, from public discussion, to resist debate? The State refuses to accept violations of human rights, but is to appease religions despite its indiscretions and aberrations. The time has come for the world to declare that all religions are outdated and useless. Those nations governed and influenced by religions may take the first step for other nations to follow and make the world a religion-less society.

We need to educate, spread awareness, and evolve a value system that creates a single spiritual force. Therefore, spirituality should be empowered to serve as an alternative to religions, by the world leaders, because they are the ones, who can bring the change. In the past, rulers propagated religions. Now, let the world leaders and the state governments help to spread spirituality in the world.

We inherit religion. As a result, we need a sound management to run organized religions purely as a religion and not use religions as a tool to kill people and grab power. World has given three thousand years to organized religions to run businesses fairly, but religions have failed miserably. Cavemen don't dwell in cities. Likewise, we need to a new version of religiousness, which is in tune with the spiritual needs of an individual, to cre-

ate a better human being, and not an organizational structure for the masses as religions have built. If the State does nothing then we can produce a new spiritual order by educating the new generation, which is a slow process.

We should not believe in what is considered wrong by the people. We should not back any communal power struggle of religious leaders. They have by spreading religions led people astray and turned them as enemies ready to kill each other to protect their own religion. We have to put an end to such wicked plans. We should talk about universal truths and brotherhood so that people cease to hate, and instead love each other, as a global family, and live in peace, and work for the common welfare of all.

Democracies are the most religiously diverse nations in the world. They are multi-ethnic societies. Diversity strengthens freedom of human thoughts. Differences between races, religions and cultures can either shatter society by totalitarianism or transform into a significant spiritual synergy by democracy.

Man killing a man just because he belongs to another religion reflects the consequence of horrible religious beliefs. When no religions takes responsibility and justify the terrible act of terrorism, then why does it happen? The State must speedily introduce regulatory systems to curb this menace. Not a day passes when there is no killing in the name of religion. The State must stop appeasement and stop the danger of religious terrorism. This is bad.

Politically administered organized religions have divided the world. Secularists believe religions are basically the same. Therefore, a nation should not have any 'State Religion'. World has paid a heavy price in blood for religious zeal. Despite tall talk, we haven't separated religions from State polity and still continue to promote the same.

The inclusion of religion into politics as vote bank is evident. The world's oldest democracy US is led by divine guidance, in God we trust, even today. While world's most populous democracy India promotes all religions in the name of secularism. If communism could get rid of religions, why couldn't democracy do it? Religions in modern context are at odds with the rational

way of contemporary thinking. Democracy is the hope of global society, if it fails us, then what more can we expect from theocratic states? Religion has no rightful place in politics/polity.

In the past, organized religions prospered under the patronage of rulers or heads of State that supported the mission of crusade and jihad to spread organized religions in and outside their country. Religions have outlived their utility and now the process of proposed change must be initiated by all respective governments. If civil laws are under State control, why have separate laws of religion under the control of the priest? This is against the law of the land or natural justice. Therefore, one rule of law should govern all citizens of a country.

If the rulers were instrumental in establishing and spreading religion, now let all national Governments in the world decide to spread spirituality in its purest form world over. Spirituality is the core of all religions and 'Satyadharma' is its new avatar. Governments should conduct a comparative study of all major religions of the world and encourage people to experiment with spirituality or Satyadharma individually, without any external support. Governments should also introduce laws to prevent the misuse of religion to stop spirituality.

Change is a natural process, so it cannot be stopped. Capitalism has triumphed over communism, and democracy will ultimately prevail over dictatorship. The world is rapidly becoming a global village. Things are changing, only religions violently oppose change. Spirituality or Satyadharma provides a platform to widen the scope of the mind to drop all religious instructions and restrictions, and ponder on changing the old to a new spiritual order that is relevant to our time, which is human-centric and not God-centric.

With the opinion and backing of intellectuals we can facilitate change. It isn't enough to criticize people for being fundamentalist or proclaimed terrorist, if we know nothing will happen to them. Rather than condemnation we need an organization, were religious bigotry, fundamentalism, terrorism etc are punished by law. The institutional changes are needed to incorporate legislation after due diligence. It requires broadening of the issue. Media and public discussions can play a vital role. Only those

who lead the change can cope with it. Awareness is the medium that prepares people to understand and utilize all that is new and beneficial.

On religious matter there is no freedom of speech. This is an accepted norm, because each religion lives in the fear of being exposed. Comments on religion are guarded, afraid that the religious sentiments of people could be hurt. Even defenders of free speech suddenly abandon their cherished values when it comes to religion. The educated don't hesitate to discuss issue relating to religions with loving kindness. Seeing that religious extremism is gaining acceptability across socio-economic groups, we need to rethink, and take a firm stand against it.

Human beings are troubled by fear, so religious preachers exploit them in the name of religion and make them subservient to serve the plans of religions as bonded slaves tend do. We need regulatory methods to control organized religions. Religious organizations have the right to exist. Because all organizations thrive on growth, so religious organizations must shed rigidity, and find ways to grow, by having a new group of believers.

To get rid of religions the ideology of spirituality or Satyadharma must weave a tale about the plight of people, of a nation, a race or even the whole of mankind. It should glorify the past and talk about a miserable present and offer a rosy future to the people, by dismantling all religions, and by following spirituality. Notwithstanding that terrorist activities are a real threat. It is essential to amend the religious beliefs which lead to terrorism. We all want to live in peace. Terrorism in the name of religion is a desperate act that target followers of a rival religion, and also kills innocent bystanders belonging to the religion of the terrorist. When religions fall from the pedestal of God and become a devil incarnate, then religions lose its place in a civilized society.

We cannot have one world religion. The idea is not practical. Even the exercise to combine commonalities of all religions is in vain. One wrong cannot correct another wrong. However, the general consensus of the people world over is that religion should be considered as a personal matter and not a public affair. This strongly conveys the message that people no longer

want to be under the authority of the church or be misled by the priest. On the other hand spirituality remains the preferred choice of the majority of the people. The answer to it, is certainly not atheism, it's a question to swap religion of masses with spirituality for an individual. This will solve the problems created by religions. Since the erstwhile kings and kingdoms where responsible to lay the foundation of religions and continued to cater them. It is now the duty of the 'State' to bring change, by introducing religious reforms, treat religions as history and promote 'Spirituality' as 'Satyadharma' the ultimate creed for an individual.

REFORM RELIGIONS

There is little doubt that reform within each religion is required despite its theological rigidity. When things change we need to change too. But, to bring change how much liberalism is too much liberalism? While dealing with the sensitive issue of religions. Is judiciary the right forum to address this tricky issue or the State has a role to play in reforming the religious beliefs of the people or should the State leave it to the religious scholars or act on the initiative of the civil society to initiate corrective measures?

We live in a world where the State becomes indecisive, when called upon to break the rules of religion, since the State fears that it will not come clean, and will be accused of gross interference. Besides, we know there is no context-free, philosophical solution to the problem, except to pour old wine in the new bottle. Debate on religion versus the State has not helped either. Last but not the least we have to ask whether religious reforms can make any difference at all. Reality is not idealism it is too complicated for religions to handle. Past experience tell us that reforms have often proved ineffective in matters of religious conviction. The time has come not to reform or replace, but to oust religion from public life, and place it in the private domain of an individual. This should be the collective responsibility of the State, judiciary and society.

The philosophy of religion was an attempt to understand the truth of life and living. But religion has no monopoly over

this fundamental issue, which not concerns the theist but the atheist too, then why people are frightened to comment about each other's religion. Religious terrorism has created fear and danger to life, a terrified silence is enveloping around educated people and civilized nations. Deceitful religious leaders are taking full advantage of this silence to carry out their nefarious plans freely.

We should know the advantage of keeping matters of State and Religion away from each other. There have been enough occasions where human tragedies have arisen due to mixing politics with religion. So it's amply clear, the severance of State from religions, needs to be maintained resolutely, to avoid social calamity.

The rule passed by European nations to ban wearing of religious symbols in public is indeed a bold step in the right direction. It allows religions to modernize itself. Other nations should follow this example. Signs and symbols were invented to display a person's brand of religion. Natural hairiness, beards and distinct dress codes are used and worn in public domain, for people to notice them, and recognize their religious affiliation.

All religious conceptions add value to advertise the brand name of religions in the bazaar of public perception. People hardly consider religion to be realistic, but need it to make sense of a complex world, no matter what the manner of its interpretation leads to, make or break the social peace and harmony.

All the religions have tried to define what the cosmos is all about, but were unable to solve the puzzle. Even sages responded them with a poser, confessing that only Gods know or perhaps even the Gods don't know.

In an increasingly hostile world spiritual space in everyday life is attracting the attention of young people. The State must act as a facilitator to allow all faiths including the atheists to express their collective views on religion publicly without fear or favor. Only through this process all multi-religious and all non-religious influences can together grow harmoniously in an open and free civilized society.

Secularism is a proactive process that involves all religions

to tolerate and cooperate with each other. It builds confidence in each person, to have a reasonable explanation about his and others people's religions. Spirituality the core of all religions can grow, only under such circumstances. But politicians play dirty politics and create vote banks by pitching one religion against another. We know only democracy can strengthen secularism, so if, the practitioners of a democratic state demean it, by creating various religions as vote banks than they are in fact dividing people on the basis of their religions, much against the principles of secularism, this is not acceptable.

There are universal values and time based values. Universal values are timeless, but time based values serve a specific age, and are laid to rest with the passage of time. With changeable thoughts, shifting cultures and open economy, values systems are changing. Civilization is now heading towards globalization. With moving time even the present rules will change, but universal values remain unaffected, so there is no threat to culture the rigid religions decry. The current socio-economic changes are a normal process in the moment of cosmic time.

Religion is not the torchbearer of moral principles. Is there anything right or wrong? The most balanced manner of living for a social human being comes from the principles, which help people to live, and let others live freely in a civilized society as civilized beings.

We are living at the point in time, when people have started seeing religions as a big nuisance. This is because of religious terrorism is unleashed worldwide, by unscrupulous religious leaders and fundamentalist, who call themselves the custodians of their religion. The simple fact is that the followers of any religion should not be violent and destructive. A religion that preaches violent behavior is no religion at all.

It is wrong to believe in the oneness of religions. Instead mankind must accept oneness of man to live in harmony with each other. In different religions difference will continue to exist, but in a free society we only need to respect each other, and in democracies people respect diversity, and uphold the rights of each other with dignity.

Religious terrorism damages the fabric of a multi-religions,

multi-lingual and multi-cultural world. Religious leaders promote hatred on false propaganda. Once their half truths are dispelled by truth, people can automatically transform them, and through a meaningful dialogue, they can resolve all mutual differences too.

All major world religions were founded many centuries ago. Few of them survive in its original form. The religion of Hindus has changed with times without losing the core of their basic beliefs, as a consequence of debate, criticism and reformation. Religions should not be rigid, but should agree to revise the holy books. The free thinking to reform religions is of no use, without open verbal communication to disagree. Let us stand for this freedom.

Religious hatred incites hostility between different religions. This disgusting act should be considered as a crime punishable by the court of law. As the definition of religions lack clarity the acts of crime against religions are simply seen as petty offences is indeed a silly plea. The fact remains that religious fanatics have crossed all limits of civil and religious tolerance. Now there is hardly any difference between the robe and the rouge. Under these frightening situation, why the initiative of the State to act has dried up?

If the State fails, it is important for the society to face the challenge at hand through non violent means. The biggest strength lies in saying 'No' to what is not proper for the common good of mankind. And start a wide-reaching discussion on the core values of religion, and the means to rejuvenate them. State support systems are imperative to confront with the cleric and their cohorts.

Globalization has promoted the idea of oneness of human race and the world as one family. As we all now stand on the demise of the old and the birth of a new spiritual order, a creed based on scientific temper can lead people from old beliefs to new realities. People are aware of the failure of religions to solve the problems in a changing world. The society is in need of a new start. Change can stir the society to the core, but soon there is an order that follows chaos, when it settles down, will lead the world to a new way of thinking.

World is heading towards global civilization. We are witnessing revolutionary changes in the communication and travel sectors. In the past, tribes, nations, and empires progressed at the expense of others through conflict and control, but in the 21st century people will prosper, by caring and sharing human, and world resources, for the consumption of whole humanity. People are developing a new way of thinking and the increasing numbers of peace loving people, promise a bright future for mankind. Welcome a great change in the offing.

People who follow religions with blind faith have no sense of righteousness. Religious leaders incite only blind followers of their religion, to indulge in violent acts, against the followers of other religions.

Religious laws are incompatible with the law of the land, with gender equality, and with democratic principles. Regimes based on religious laws deviate from conventional values with regard to criminal law and procedure. It lowers the status of women and interferes in the private and public life of the people by throttling human freedom. All wicked practice advocated by religions is universally condemnable.

When people belonging to all religions say that our religion is best and all other religions are bad, than whose claim should we accept as true or false? Fanatics and terrorist are the enemies of the people. Strong action must be taken against them for their criminal activities. Even though the extremist groups act in the name of religion but the majority of religious believer dislike violence which kills innocent people.

People are born with a religion and grow being tagged to religious symbols, labels, brand, name, dress code, rituals and superstitions. Through a slavish strategy the cleric coerce them especially from early days to offer prayers once or several times in a day so that by the time they reach adulthood their mind is totally conditioned. Than all these years of brain washing comes in use to defend and spread their religion. By the time they reach old age, weathered by living scores of years the mind is habituated and their belief becomes stronger, and too late for them to be sensible. See how religion and its network abuse followers from their cradle to their grave, thus violating human

rights and curbing human liberty.

Certain procedures need to be introduced. State should end identification of people with religion, stop religious representation in legislative assemblies and discontinue giving concessions on religious affiliations. In democratic countries many political parties treat religions as vote banks, which give religion a chance to retain its medieval character at the cost of unjust conduct, the price to vote, political parties to power. This is a desperate short range method to garner votes to win an election. Such misguided moves can crush democracy in the long run. Politicians must overlook short-term interest and develop long-term vision, before the damage is done.

The crisis that confronts the world today is the failure to control religious terrorism. We need basic changes in international rules and institutions. If the existing institutions do not adjust to the new spiritual order that is rising in the world than greater instability is likely to ensure. Changing the organizational structure of religions is no easy task. But only revamped institutions and new rules can tackle the present crisis.

Society and nations are governed by common laws of the state to regulate their functions in a controlled manner. Similar rules and regulations must also apply to regulate religions without giving them any exemptions. With time the old set of laws are changed and replaced by a new set of statues. Why can't we change the outdated religious scriptures to make them relevant to time? Religious rigidity is certainly against the law of change, therefore we must strongly oppose it.

It is evident that religious establishments are being run like any other business establishment, then why their activities are not put under the scanner? Why their sinister policies are passed unchecked? Why under the refuge of exemption they are free to do activities such as misleading, terrorizing and holding the society to ransom?

Religious literature has been used as a tool to change. It contains the power to create or destroy. We have good, bad and dangerous religious literature helping and manipulating people in the world. There are also some religious books which condemn other religions creating conflict. We need to denounce

such dismal and dangerous religious books. There is no reason why we cannot clean our religious literature of dirty stuff. The support of religious heads will give legitimacy to this exercise.

To change the system we must reform for the larger common good of mankind and bring change to infuse a new life into our aging religions of yore. From generations, man has been following religious diktats and sermons. This long taming has accustomed man only to obey religious commands and follow them or else the fear that any infringement can invite the wrath of God and a place in hell to live. With this fear psychosis looming large on mans mind he is unable to evaluate whether the religious command he is following is for common good or not. It is important to face this challenge.

Religion is not one nation. World at large recognizes the diversity of religions and regards religion as a private affair of a person, which is wrong. The State treats religious communities as interconnected groups within a nation. Members of various religious communities follow their own set of beliefs and practices. Even with this shared aim, camaraderie has not helped to foster similarity of religious interest due to the unconcerned attitude of the State. Being different and distinct the religious groups are hostile to the interest of each other and support separatist and troublesome trends, which have led to terrorism and fundamentalism. Considering that religion has nothing to do with the State polity, the State has failed to differentiate what they are supposed to do, and what has sadly come to pass. The laxity of State is to blame, for turning this problem, into a clash of civilization.

The State hesitates to bring changes fearing it may hurt the sentiments of religious community and as a silent spectator allows them to go overboard by eclipsing the human interest. The State should stop appeasement and act with courage to introduce change. The State must change the way religions see the world. Who wants to tolerate religious atrocities at the cost of peaceful coexistence? The State must decide the importance of human rights and curtail religious terror.

Political forces are also to be blamed for taking advantage of the intolerance between different religious groups and support

their hate agenda. The country should have law against the perpetrators of communal violence. Most people consider religion does more harm than good and is the main cause of division and tension between people.

On one hand the public display of external symbols like hairstyles, marks on forehead, head coverings and dresses not only creates a separate religious identity it also promotes the brand name of a religion but on the other hand it tends to become a soft target of terrorist belonging to a rival religion to strike them with ease. If the State bans such external religious displays in public, all religious communities will automatically integrate in the multiplicity of a global society. The lawmaking bodies of the state are the agents of change. The state must also sense public mood and their mode to bond religious divide through spirituality. Considering this the law should to be recast.

Child marriage is prohibited, voting rights are denied to children but religion is allowed to be forced unhindered upon a newborn by the State, isn't this a travesty of law, of a practice that comes under child abuse. Parents should be forbidden to thrust religion on their babies because the newborns suffer from religious conditioning. Newborns are unaware of the ways of the world, it is the duty of the State to ensure that when they grow up as adults, they must have the freedom to decide themselves, whether to accept or reject or have no religion at all. Religions are guilty of polluting the minds of children with retrogressive ideas, which is carried forward into their adulthood, as beliefs that culminates in their old age, as religious truths and not concrete reality. Being ill at ease with a medieval mindset, how can such people march forward, in a progressive society? The outcome is before us, ever since organized religions appeared, the world has become a battlefield of religious rivalry and terrorism.

CURRICULUM RENEWAL

There is a need to modernize religion, with a forward-looking curriculum, which is suitable for the 21st century. This is an essential requirement of the day. It is important for religions to have an organic growth and constantly adapt to new understanding.

The level of thinking that created religious scriptures in the past are no more relevant now. Besides, religious organizations have served to create distinct identity of its followers over the years, and have failed to promote 'Oneness of Mankind'. This has badly divided the social order.

Without experiment or experience, we cannot claim to know anything. At one time people believed that the earth was flat and the sun moved around the earth, which was later proved to be false. In the same way, religious scriptures contain several systems of beliefs and suppositions, which simply aren't valid now, but the cleric still harp the same tune.

Religions have organizations and organizations are managed by people. The organizations which adopt and implement the process of self-correction and self-regulation are fine tuned to meet the challenges of time. Equally so the foundation of organized religion must rest on a liberal setup that can keep pace with ever changing time. Therefore, religious authorities must use auto-correction, which is a step in the right direction.

The development of human beings depends on gaining awareness of things around them by means of knowledge and wisdom. Being ignorant one cannot find his way. Therefore, no one should blindly follow any religion or any Holy book or heed to the preaching of any priest, mullah or pundit, without weighing it, in the scale of personal experience, with reason and due diligence.

Renewal is a nonstop process, it gathers new elements, and adds value to old religions. In the present context, these forces are struggling to develop, regarding secularism, cultural pluralism, democracy, fundamental rights and assimilation of spiritual values, to script the role of the future religion of the world.

The world by and large is religious. The holy books were written in the medieval age, the caretakers of religions have blocked all the routes to mend them. But crystal clear is current realism. The world now wants universal spiritual values, and not religions, for a cohesive and a open-minded society.

Religion is not the source of all-embracing values. It's one of the causes of value generation. Today, people don't want religious values, but universal values of 'Oneness', that is, humanity

as one family and world as one home. In the diversity of cultures, religions and languages, we must know the commonalities and the differences. Commonalities lead to social integration and differences to mutual respect and dignity.

Secularism bridges the gulf between religion and spirituality. A progressive leap from religion to spirituality is facilitated by secularism. Secularism is based on the virtues propagated by all religions. It discards fanaticism associated with religious fundamentalism. Secularism involves scientific outlook.

To cultivate secularism, we need to propagate and prefer scientific and philosophical aspects of all religions. Secularism is not nonreligious. It depicts the neutrality of religions. Religions are stepping-stone and not an end in them, beyond religion is secularism. Neutrality of religions is based on inner awakening and it turns religions of god and soul, into knowledge of self, which is nothing else but spirituality.

Religions have divided the world, using imaginary concepts that do not really exist. Religious authorities are at odds, with each other's religion, they should not forget the fact that religions will surely change with time. What would be the face of future religion cannot be said now. But, it is certain that 'Humanism' will play key role. With humanism, on the center stage, all religion based divisions, will collapse, and global unity, among people and nations, will surface in splendor.

The State should chalk out a code of conduct, to check false religious claims and fix accountability. Such measures are not used to test religious texts. The complexity in finding a pack of lies is not due to lack of knowledge but the false impression of an ultimate knowledge. Adding to problem is a blind belief that believes nothing is impossible. Mans mindset has changed today, and is totally in disagreement with the strange, useless and primitive religious philosophy of days gone by. All these contradictions add to make the whole issue more and more complicated.

The disparity between past and present cannot be removed. It is impractical to match past with present. They can never be the same. Only with introspection and self-correction the veneer of a redundant past can be peeled off, from the texts

of old Holy scriptures. Religions must be in tune with the present but fanaticism is promoted to prevent changes, in the holy books by the religious leaders, who serve their personal agendas. Fundamentalism and terrorism are direct outcome of this regressive mindset.

Nefarious concepts that advocate killing innocent people, just because they belong to another religion, have given religions a bad name. Religions have spread through violence, and continue to do so, even today, or even if, it means, to suppress others. All religions are manmade it has nothing to do with any divine dictation. A religion that compels ignorant to be ignorant is not a religion.

Despite being religious, majority of the people in the world disapprove religions because they have created a make-believe world, just to advance their own interest. World is in dire need of a changeover, never before, has there been a more urgent plea for renewal to alter old beliefs. Change is not imposed, it requires time to gradually evolve and move forward.

In the course of evolution, all natural processes renew itself. Trees shed old twigs, and human body keeps changing. Ideas which are relevant today are obsolete tomorrow. But people are still struck, in the groove of outdated ideology of religions. Why religions are kept alive for more than 3000 years, despite religions having lost its utility. Religions have played a long innings. If, we don't let them go, they will catch us with the future generation, and prevent the growth of human progress and civilization.

People breathe old lives, over and over again, not getting any younger. In reality, they are just wandering in the terrain of their minds. Being chained to past they assume they are walking ahead in future. When people put up, old scaffolding to build new structures, than it falls apart. Past has gone, just learn from it and leave it behind. If we don't, past will repeat to relive and make our mindset stagnant, while the body decays with time.

If we want new results, we cannot use old tricks. Every single day gives us an opportunity to start anew. Our reluctance and stubbornness to stick with the old, is the root cause of being dull, stale and stagnant. Everything works for the good. If, there

were no dinosaurs there could be no human beings. Nevertheless, the working of nature, from the old to the new, will always endure.

Quite often, religions are accused of promoting disruptive tactics, and destabilizing the social order, religious authorities reject sane suggestions, saying no one has the right to interfere in their religion because religion is their private matter. But, the fact of the matter is, all religions are public and not a private issue.

At the most, religion provides comfort to the troubled psyche of an individual. Otherwise, religion is always in public domain. Each religion has been used as a tool for aggression and violence, encouraging hatred among people, by pitching one religion against another religion. No religion has monopoly, nor can any religion claim superiority or say that all other religions are inferior.

Currently, we are witnessing the emergence, of religious leaders, who have deepened blind faith and brain washed followers of their religions, to advance old concepts of crusades and jihads. Global terrorist organizations, under the garb of religion, are not in the business of religion, but promote political ideology under the cover of religion. They are the biggest threat to world peace. Religions are incapable of living in an educated and civilized society.

Obsolete old Religions have a medieval outlook, and needs to be changed by a new point of view. If polytheism was replaced by monotheism, and Idols of Gods were broken by proclaiming that God is formless, than why shouldn't the Gods with forms and the formless God be replaced by Godless spirituality? Not through violent means as was prevalent in the medieval age, but by the weapon of reason that what is relevant to our digital age. So let us, start this process right now.

All religions must be taught from school. For learning philosophy, we don't require a guru, priest, mullah, myths, rituals, superstitions, prayers or worship. Philosophy is taught by a qualified teacher, who is like any other common person. But when we learn religion, we know less about religion, and more about the priest, mullah and pundit.

Smooth and slick claims made by religious leaders and their holy books mislead the gullible. This needs to be curbed by the court of law, so as to prevent innocent people being deceived with false promises. Setting up a 'Regulator of Religions' to enforce rules and keep a check on false claims is the need of the hour. When there are laws to deal with the grievances of consumers and stop misleading advertisements as well. So, now the time has come for the State to regulate religions as well.

THE CORRUPTED FORM OF RELIGION IN OUR TIME

There is a universal consensus among the world's educated class that all religions should be driven out from public domain completely and a personal faith, if required, by an individual be retained till such time the world becomes a religion free society. Considering this common conformity Satya Dharma or spirituality has been structured for the sake of simplicity and adaptability to facilitate this transformation.

The world wants to be rid of myths, miracles, and magic. Even the abolition of religion is crucial for the peaceful co-existence of the people. Even secularism has no major impact. Intolerance, terrorism and fundamentalism are growing. Human values stand vulgarized and human dignity debased. Everything that is religious is becoming meaningless. The evil face of religion is frightening, indeed.

The meaning of 'Life and Living' is no more perused with interest. Human race is leading life technically on technology and moving with its trajectory. Intellectuals agree that religion is destined to disappear. But the social purpose to sustain society through moral consensus and its benefic influence kept alive is necessary. If religion were not accessible then 'Humanism' would have surely taken its place.

Many truth seekers had forecast the collapse of religion. However, contrary to what was thought, several hundred years have lapsed. Religion has not disappeared from the world so far, even though it is considered as the world's biggest problem, owing to fanaticism and its terror tactics.

It is odd and outlandish, religions are supposed to preach love and brotherhood, but religious leaders often, preach hatred

among those who do not subscribe to their brand of religion. Unfortunately, disrespect for another's faith or religion has resulted in wars, bloodshed, and terrorism, thus arousing communal passions. No one is against any religion and its moral utility, the rigidity of religions to change with time, has overturned the applecart, and rendered religions irrelevant.

Condemning each other and harboring hatred towards each other's religion has created enormous disharmony amongst the people throughout the world, in fact, religions are the biggest divisive force, instrumental in dividing the world into armed camps on the basis of religion. Whatever religion one may follow, it is necessary to practice tolerance and understanding, which is indispensable for peaceful living and co-existence.

Forcing God and religion on those who are not prepared to accept it does not serve any useful purpose. To the educated people, the belief in God and religion is not important, to lead a spiritual and virtuous life. There are many who lead a righteous life without religious beliefs, while many believers infringe human rights and inflict pain to innocent people in the name of religions.

Religion needs to be relevant. Religious books are already under the scanner. Religious places are becoming less holy, and more as a festive place. Music and refreshments attract people to visit religious places, less for religion, but more for entertainment. The signs of decay and decline of religion is obvious.

There are hardly any religious leaders who are committed to the wellbeing of the people. They are trouble-mongers, who give religions a bad name. With the support of innocent followers things get worse. Followers should get rid of them. The remedy lies in promoting people of caliber to head religious organizations.

Religion was created for people who were illiterate and economically backward. The authors of religious books knew that educated people could question the genuineness of these books. Restrictions were imposed on them, through psychological fear stating that holy books were dictated by God himself or were written by divine muse. This ploy worked. Ignorant people with blind faith believed the holy books to be the final word of God.

The fear of God, created by religions, in the minds of believers, is fully exploited, by religious leaders. Followers are not expected to question the Holy book, and the reliability of the religious leaders, who project themselves as the agents of God.

It is time for the followers of all religions to wake up, from the slumber of blind faith, superstition, rituals and beliefs, and tune themselves to spiritual wisdom, and look once more to reality with clear a mind. Faith followers should realize the meaning of God through personal experience, and not through religion but by following 'Swadharma', which means to pick up one's own personal spiritual path.

Religions have outlived their relevance. People now need a new and realistic spiritual approach fine tuned with time. Drastic religious reforms are considered necessary to make the world better. A thoughtful structure and strategy backed by intellectuals can create a vibrant system of spirituality or in other words Satya Dharma.

The pride of power and the might of money of the religious leaders have degraded religions. Religion is no more seen as the symbol of high principles, but as an organization marketing a brand of religion, using money and power to pull people of other religions in their fold.

Today, when people look for spiritual development, they want something that is simple to put into practice, which doesn't involve any ritual or rigor. They want a system that blends well, with normal activities and their thought process, even if, the procedure is not based on traditional tenets.

We live in an age, where religion has become commercial, places of worship reduced to marketplace, and cleric the center of power. People are totally disillusioned by religion, adding to their woes, are terrorist activities, carried in the name of religion has distanced them from religion. Even as religion is accepted as a fundamental human right, yet there are no legal provisions to regulate religions, why religions are left to the cleric. Government of each country should regulate religions under the law of the land, absence of which has created unbridled terrorism worldwide. This is unfair for a civilized society to conduct its affairs.

History has witnessed evil at its worst under the flag of religions, in the most horrible and the most terrible forms, Religion even at present is associated with terrorism, besides many fanatics and fundamentalism misinterpret Holy Scriptures, fuel religious passions to kill those who oppose them. Further religious leaders strengthen their position of power by mixing religion with politics.

The growth of human qualities is possible, when people are able to understand and oppose false religious beliefs. If, religious beliefs cannot stand the test of universal ethical values, then it is not a religion. If we crave to live in falsehood, how can we live in truth? Mankind is governed by the reality of natural laws.

Faraway from spreading harmony and peace, religions have created large scale hatred among people, the cause of continuous conflict. Fundamentalist have used religion as a means to spread terrorism worldwide. It is a serious crisis, which compels us to think, about the unsuitability of religion.

Humanity needs a religion based on universal spiritual values, which imbibe reason, time honored social and moral principles which commands consistency in application. Spirituality is the most appropriate alternative to religions. Let the digital age discard that which is false and worthless and accept what is right and practical.

Religions are creating divisions. This is an unforgivable offence against humanity. It must be dealt appropriately by the rule of law. The erring Religious leaders should be brought to justice. People and State should disapprove. Silence takes away the right to oppose, than no one is answerable. Plans to create divisions backed by religious leaders and supporting and sponsoring states are a matter of widespread public disappointment.

Born with the identity tag of a religion, people suffer from an identity crisis throughout their life. Their commitment to tag on to religion is so strong, that it never allows them to see the reality of religion. This puts off rationality, it blinds the vision, and creates mental blocks lost in the darkness of delusion.

Whether people accept it or not, the decline in religion is now a worldwide trend. The reasons for rejection may differ from religion to religion. The greatest challenge is, whether we can

separate religions from spiritual values?

The answer is to deinstitutionalize religion, and take it to the 'Personal Domain' of an individual. The core or soul of all religions is spirituality. Today, people need a system which is open to verification and not on blind following. The system needs to be revamped and rejuvenated, with well crafted strategies. All over the world, people want new spiritual standard to face the future, for binding humanity together.

Fundamentalism has impracticable answers relevant to bygone ages, which are unfit to resolve the complex problems arising out of contemporary conditions. Fundamentalists feel that their religion empowers them with hope, faith, and a sense of shared community.

Can pursuit of reason rapture religion? In the conflict of ideas, reason should have a free hand, to combat against orthodoxy, blind faith and religious bigotry. It is reason that has laid the foundation of secularism, democracy and freedom, the hallmarks of modern life.

Religions have decayed long ago. They are merely surviving by selling superstitions. We don't need a revolution. Struggle between accepted beliefs and progressive thinking has been a continuous effort to find innovative and remedial solutions.

We need a people's campaign. A revolution is not needed to dislodge religions. We do not know whether spirituality or Satyadharma, which comes after such a campaign, will be free from deficiency. Certainly, concepts are not perfect, as perfection is an unattainable goal, what does really matter is the idea whose moment has come. It is important such campaigns are launched; public support is gathered that does make a big difference.

Centuries old religious literature lay in the bin of bygone myths. Crack these myths to reveal reality. Is religion a collection of frosty words, a set of frozen doctrines, freezing beliefs, superstitions, rituals and myths? Let us not deride the wisdom of these texts nor belittle the importance of learning from them.

What is required today is the learning of all religions. So people can know the finer aspects from the comparative study of religions, and denounce false beliefs. This line of thought falls in line, with today's progressive thinking. The bringing together

of religions and secularism can certainly save humanity from communal discord.

Thinkers after thinkers have rubbished religious beliefs, but the vast majority of human beings continue to follow them. Being religious means subscribing to the tenets of one's religion, any violation begets punishment. It instills fear of retribution and reprisal from God. This fear forces the followers to repose blind faith on the holy books, which gives them no right to decide or live the way they want to live.

Religious text and its interpretation are full of contradictions. This shows lack of clarity in Holy Scriptures. Religious books were written by human beings and not by any divine being. The problems in the writings have arisen due lack of vision. Therefore, it needs human and not divine intervention to solve them. Waiting for God to descend on earth to edit the Holy books is a silly idea. Changes must be brought through human efforts. When books which relate to other streams of knowledge can be edited, why not the Holy Books?

There is too much violence on account of terrorism instigated by religious leaders. When senseless violence begins to harm innocent people, it becomes a cause of concern. The greatest riddle is that animals kill to satisfy hunger, but humans kill each other for no valid reason.

Fanaticism has been the main cause of terrorism. Proper education of religions can be a solution. Learning is an unending process and the appetite for knowledge never satiates. Educated people must endeavor to learn all religions, even as a large part of religious scriptures is described as ill-considered and nonsensical, so it requires great patience to read. Pursuing the junk in religion make people suffer delusion. Organized religions function like political parties and are involved in intensifying hatred among nations.

To end wrong practices of religion, law of the land must bring certain proviso under its ambit like (1) Freedom to learn all religions (2) No one can inherit religion from birth (3) Religion cannot be forced upon others by coercion or allurement. People should be free to decide the religion they like to follow or pursue no religion or opt for spirituality. Any breach of these terms is

treated as the violation of fundamental rights of a civilian.

Vatican City is recognized as an 'Independent State'. It is represented at the United Nations. It has diplomatic relations with nations, and has ambassadorial missions in the city. No other religious order enjoys such privileges. This inequality must end. Such disparities create conflict. The very concept of a 'Faith Republic' is a dangerous idea, in a world, which is already divided by religions. In the age of globalization, people need a universal religion and not faith republics or theocratic States.

We need to promote that which is relevant. Replicating the past is not an apt response. Modernity cannot be wished away. Can we merge the two, to ensure continuity, looks like a tricky issue that requires to be tackled? To improve the quality of life, spirituality along with materialism is important, for both inner and outward development. This dual sense of dharma defines how to live life in totality.

Religious systems are governed by dictums and directives, commitments and characters. The rigidity of the preceptor and the precepts, sap the strength of religion. The intellectual and the young dislike rigidity, as it is against, the universal principles of change. People dislike being dictated by doctrines and dogmas.

The influences of anything that is forced upon people, does not last long, and the threats of fear, create resistance to revolt against a system that instills it. Just by telling reading the holy book continuously, the mind of the dull witted is brainwashed and conditioned to drain to produce a real response.

Fixed precepts, irrational beliefs, silly superstition and mechanical rituals are thrust, by the priest on people, who are ignorant and easy to fool. Followers must verify the claims made by religion, within the timeframe of their life. People accept religious beliefs because they are old, or they have a huge following, or it comes from a famous celebrity. Few get to know the whole story, while blind followers keep their eyes shut.

Fanatics are enemies of human civilization and they degrade ethics. A faith that is established on the word of God is dictatorial. The personality of a religious master must not obstruct the teachings of the holy book. If the master becomes the focal

point then the teachings of the holy book is relegated to the backdrop. The life and teaching of the master is separate from the character and teaching of religion.

The approach of religion is regulatory in nature based on beliefs, ethical and opinionated ideas, revolving around sin and virtue, an indispensable requirement of the society during the medieval age. Now, the acceptability, in the present social order depends on trust and friendship, as the emphasis has shifted on individual's rights and duties, ethical choices, compassion and moral courage, right to information, transparency and accountability.

In a free society it is the 'Individual' who assumes the most important role. The indispensable requirement of our time is to tackle the individual, rather than obey the command of a celestial being. The process of implementation is stalled by avoidance than by compliance.

Suicide missions carried out by religiously obsessed terrorists is worrisome. People are still inspired by perverted, medieval age concept of a holy war or jihad against infidels is deplorable. Terrorist as human bombs are cowards, they explode themselves to kill innocent people. Their growing numbers is a grave matter of anxiety and fear.

It is difficult for an authoritarian medievalist to digest democracy. Even countries based on religion are not in sync, with tenets of its own religion, and cannot escape the fury of fanatics. Each 'Faith Republic' must become a 'Religionless Republic' and introduce democratic system to promote individual liberty and social equality, so that no one is scared to board a plane or go to office or shopping in the market.

The breeding grounds of terrorist are the Islamic countries ruled by dictators. It will not be easy to eliminate their authoritarian rule. But democratization of the Islamic world has a wider acceptance to serve the aspirations of the oppressed people. It is the spirit of freedom, which will ultimately triumph over terror. We need religious tolerance in the world, to build a harmonious future for humanity.

Terrorists are seen as martyrs, they are even compared to historical crusaders, who led the conquest of holy wars. It is

appalling to see the way religion is being perverted. Terrorist recognize no nation and respect no borders. The world must rid the menace of terror through global policing or through UN peace keeping force.

We need to protect the youth or vulnerable people from being indoctrinated by fanatics, who preach hatred, revenge and violence. To achieve this, a closer social contact, between different groups of people is crucial, to create communal harmony, and respect for each other's religions, and religious practices.

The world is shocked to see bloodshed and bomb blast everywhere. All civilized nations of the world, should unite, to fight against the terrorists. The fight need not be violent. It should be through non-violent means, like persuading the terrorist haven states to bring the terrorist to justice.

The terrorist are misguided people, if they see reason and know the truth, they will certainly stop killing people around them. Compassion is not only meant for friends or for kith and kin, but is even intended for them, who are our enemies.

Destruction and death brought by terror attacks is an evil act. Evil rises in absence of goodness. Evil is the cry to bring back the good. When goodness appears, evil does not disappear, it waits to reappear when goodness is not there. Good and evil are creations of human mind. There is no evil or good. All that nature creates is 'Harmony', which means love and peace is essential for the survival of mankind.

There are other reasons than religion alone, which can be linked to terrorist activities, like selfish and indifferent human behavior, the vulnerability of youngsters to give up their life on flimsy grounds, the overpowering distress and grievances of people, and curbing individual's liberty etc. People take up arms when driven by a sense of injustice, where a minority feels that its rights are being trampled upon.

With globalization the concept of world citizenship and the prosperity of mankind are emerging fast. Nationalism will be used in future to protect and to look after the culture of that region and not to compartmentalize the world into parcels of land called nations, anymore. The earth is 'One Country' and 'Mankind its Citizens' is the agenda of the new world order.

For the sake of peace and prosperity on earth, the human race needs one world government, with all the countries becoming its equal constituents, having a common army, to police and transform the nuclear world into a peaceful world. Then all problems can be resolved in the world forum amicably, without any mayhem. Unless and until this goal is not achieved there can be no peace on earth.

An ideology that leads to world unity will encounter opposing trends, rooted in prejudice and partisanship it will refuse to heed, the call of the new age. As a consequence of this strong opposition, people will continue to suffer from poverty, war, terrorism, disease and degradation of environment, before this ideology matures into a reality, the lobbyists have to pass through many difficult situations.

The time has come for world's leadership to recognize the crisis caused by terrorism and nuclear armaments, which cast distress and doubt on the eventual outcome of world peace, survival of mankind and planet earth. The old world order is passing away, and a new world order is taking birth. The enormous challenge before mankind is to resolve collectively the smooth transition of the new world order.

There is nothing to justify war or validate anything as a just war or a holy war to prevent wars in future. Passive resistance or non-violent society or pressure groups take longer time to end hostilities, with less collateral damage. But this is not a solution to war. Can we justify the misery and pain of victims inflicted by war? Can we draw the line of justification or non-justification of war? Succinctly put, there is no place for wars in a world that seeks coexistence, peace and the wellbeing of the people.

In case of terrorism, history illustrates that deliberate killing of innocent people creates a chain reaction, so the banning of terrorist outfits becomes a necessity to curb violent backlash.

Imagine when 'Armed Forces' are ordered to carry out, ethnic cleansing, commit mass atrocities and genocide, then what are the helpless victims supposed to do? An ideology of cultural superiority, seeking revenge from religious minorities is unbelievable and unacceptable.

The ideology of militants is to use religion to enforce their plan, to create a separate religious identity. Whereas fundamentalist mix religion with militancy to mobilize followers. Fundamentalism and religious terrorism is a threat to human civilization. We need to guard against this spreading scourge.

Ethnic and religious conflicts threaten to tear apart society's to-day, then on any other issue. These nefarious movements achieve their goals through private army. These armies comprise of unemployed youth and mercenary who function as underground bullies also for political parties to silence the voice of dissent. When militants are linked to legitimate political parties claiming to represent a majority community, their impact can be disastrous on the religious minorities.

When people together with camaraderie can arrive at a common concurrence, then all nations too, can come closer to each other, and settle problems created by religions on a common platform amicably. Then all the fierce contending faiths, all hostile creeds, and all divergent religious beliefs are quieted. The age of 'Human Fellowship' has finally arrived. The world can now become religionless and end all discriminations. Therefore, let all nations decide to live as one family under one world government.

There is a need to form a union of all religions. Spirituality alone is the thread that can tie all religions together in one string. An inevitable movement with a universal outlook has already begun, to raise humanity to a level of a higher consciousness, the age of spiritual awakening.

A spiritual revival is sweeping the world, countless people can feel it and some ridicule it and many embrace it. It is an unvoiced, internal revolution of the human mind, a nameless entity, affecting a large number of people. We are at a crucial point in time, where spirituality alone can lead us to an evolved age of human existence.

Our current educated generation is awake. Strong impulses are working, something significant is about to happen, amid a growing intensity and longing to jump on the next evolutionary state. The inner journey of human mind has begun to seek its source. This personal transformation will have a drastic global

effect in the coming years.

We all are born with a natural spiritual urge, and do not seek to inherit a religion. When the world recognizes this fact, the religious journey will come to an end, and a sublime spiritual journey will begin. Spirituality is the internal intention and materialism the external objective. Can wishing away reality make truth vanish?

This spiritual seeking is inborn in humans. No one creates it. Human attraction towards spirituality is too profound, to express but what is inside comes outside spontaneously. The spiritual impulse in its crude form manifests first externally. In the past what was magic, exists in its vulgarized version in the form of religions now, religions is poised to exist in future, in its refined form, as Satyadharma or Spirituality.

Religions have torn apart the world by creating conflicts. Spirituality is the death-knell of fanaticism. It is the path to ultimate reality. The objective of Satyadharma or spirituality is to sense the presence of the pervading cosmic and human consciousness. By knowing this an individual transcends the barriers of all religions.

The holy war is open on two fronts, first to annihilate believers of other religions, second to wipe out the non-believers. Religion is the cause of violent behavior that creates conflict and division among people.

We need to lay emphasis on the moderate aspects of religion, to generate and maintain peace. Spirituality promotes a value based society by dialogue and mutual agreement. Today, the society is like a ship, which has lost its way in the ocean, sailing rudderless without direction, sinking in the sea of ignorance created by religions. Let us save the ship with the compass of spirituality.

Organized religions have corrupted and vulgarized the pure essence of spiritual wisdom. There is a need to replace old ideas with new ones. No one is interested to pay attention to a confused philosophy. People want spirituality to be defined in a plain and practicable way for the common man to understand and follow.

Satyadharma or spirituality is an initiative of the author in

that direction. It is time to change, it doesn't matter, if, someone is an atheist or not, it doesn't matter if somebody worships God or not, as long as a person is not a fanatic, 'Spiritual Evolution' and 'Elevation of Consciousness' is a continuous human endeavor.

CLEB GOD

Worshiping celebrities is like taking the place of religion in the life of the people. Lesser religious beliefs in people make them more likely to worship celebrities, while people with strong religious convictions are likely to become fanatics, both extreme are unreasonable. Those who are moderate are the harbingers of a sustainable rational change as per the requirement of time.

Celebrity worship is like religious worship. Much of the news is today dominated by the celebrities. So powerful is the impact of print and electronic media that innocent people are affected more by what happens to their icons, rather than by their personal relationships with family and friends. Even the fans of deceased celebrities, experience bereavement, as a personal loss of a loved one, in extreme cases they even commit suicides.

Celebrities have become role models for millions of people around the world. They influence their values and lifestyles, in the way religions have guided their followers. Just like religious worship, obsessive fans also follow one celebrity, and put down the other contending celebrity, similar to the worship of one God, as some religions demand followers to venerate. Like religious practices fans too perform rituals, like collecting things, touched by their icon and so on.

Celebrity worshipers believe that their icon can do no wrong. Celebrities are turning into modern Gods, a persona created by the fans and paid media. Taking advantage of this mass hysteria, more criminal are on center stage, then law abiding cult figures. Criminal convictions on the contrary enhance their celebrity status. The restrictions between right and wrong now stands sullied. This is just an insight of the contemporary attitude of hero worship.

Paid Media has glamorized criminality in the search for heroes and role models people need, breaking to create excite-

ment and sensational news. We have currently living in a world of degraded values, a decline in the reverence of honorable and honest people, indicating the requirement of a value system for a vague society.

The celebrity syndrome and the magnetism of the famous imply, mankind's tendency of idol worship. People need more and more information about them to feel connected. Varied interpretations, bizarre explanations, and endless rumors create a halo around and myths about them, which help business houses to sell their merchandise through iconic celebs, a vicious circle invented to hoodwink the public by the media-business house nexus.

CONCLUSION

Religions in its uncontaminated form must render lessons on human values and virtue. Instead religions in its corrupted versions are seen as stupid and silly, delirious and delusional system of beliefs.

Initially, religious beliefs took on the traditional forms of worship, and the understanding that the universe was created by a divine force. Later, scientific approach, influenced by materialism, shifted the purpose of life, from just accepting God, and following his commands, to promoting a liberal social order, and economic progress and well-being of the individual and the society as a whole.

Today, God and religion have lost their meaning. Technology promised mankind a bright future, while materialism failed to end economic inequality. Even with overall economic prosperity, happiness is still eluding humanity. Systems which gave meaning to life, such as inner development, morality and family bonding have been watered down. Vanity is the norm of the day. Human touch is missing. Ethics have disappeared. There is no difference between right and wrong. The individual's peace and harmony is indeed, at risk.

Manmade mechanisms have made life more complicated and complex than it actually is. Diversity survives on freedom and democracy. When people lean towards identicalness they become vulnerable to monocracy. It is well-known that dictators

hate to deal with the many-sided opinions of the people. Similarly, an authoritarian God makes religion blind, but numerous Gods and Goddesses can lend credence to a secular outlook. It is the inner spiritual journey that sparks the radiance of reality and not Gods or religions.

In countries based on or practicing one religion, there lies a latent turmoil, which threatens to go out of control, whereas in democracies crafty and cunning politicians use religions as their vote-bank, to influence the results of elections, the religious preacher's campaigning for political parties, demean religions and polarize people. Mixing religion with politics is a dangerous combination, indeed.

The fear of divine reprimand and punishment, hammered and drilled into the minds of the people, from thousands of years is deeply riveted, unhinged and inseparable from human psyche. That's the reason even the intellectuals accept religious doctrines and dogmas submissively, while others follow traditionally. There is a blind following everywhere, misleading the human race to negate reality.

Christ was born in Middle East, yet the world looks at Christianity as a western religion. The Hindus in India look upon Christianity and Islam as foreign faiths. Haven't we created the religious stereotypes, based more on their geographical provinces, and less on the doctrine religions have to essentially espouse? Isn't this enough clue to indicate, how hallow religions actually are?

In modern age people are educated, they understand what is right and what is wrong. Science and technology have widened their knowledge and perception to know the world and the universe better, which primitive people and followers of religions could hardly comprehend. Even their naivety was accepted as truth.

The world is not harmoniously placed in favor of religious beliefs. The formation of this world did not take place to match, the thinking of the authors of religion. The world operates according to universal laws. Ideas change with time. So we need to remove and recast outdated beliefs, by updating the Holy books from time to time.

Earlier people believed that the Sun rotated around the earth, and that the earth was flat, later astronomers proved them wrong. The theory of evolution also rejects that life was created by God. The religious authorities objected, persecuted and later accepted the truth, but refused to rewrite the Holy book with new findings.

The ultimate demand of this age is to unfetter humanity from the shackle of religious slavery, which has retarded the mind of human race. Performing religious rites, rituals, praying or making offerings to God, does not make a man religious. No human being requires a religion to become spiritual. All human beings are born spiritual. Life is led by applying intelligence, carefully and cautiously, without relying on the help of God, or depending on any imaginary religious concepts. Spirituality and not religion helps the evolutionary process of mankind.

Religions promote faith and people follow it blindly. Religions command surrender to an unknown entity, on the basis of fear and punishment. Surrender brings humility and hope, enthusiasm and endurance, but it has to come by a watchful watching and systematic study of psychological and physiological analysis of mind and body.

Everything is interdependent conditioned and ever changing, and the curiosity to know the first cause that creates everything in this flux is unattainable, indeed. A cause has an effect. The same effect may again become the cause; this continues to roll as a cause and its consequence in a cyclic happening. The appearance, disappearance and reappearance of universal phenomena's are the kaleidoscopic vision of nature at work.

Without intellectual interaction religion becomes a system of blind belief, reduced to a heavy baggage filled by the weight of rituals and superstition, people carry on the head with no mind. This stifles critical thinking and religious mediocrities produce trouble, and as a consequence society struggles to open up to a world of progressive views.

We should accept 'Universal Laws' having global application and appeal. Ultimately truth triumphs over error and shows us the path of righteousness. To praise, defend and preach, one's own religion and criticize and refute other religions, goes against

the decency and decorum of a caring and civilized society.

Religion contradicts reality, even as, thinkers and scientist have propounded grand philosophies, great inventions and great discoveries. giving a new dimension to knowledge and technology. Even then our understanding remains inadequate to comprehend the mysteries of the universe. Spiritual insights fill the gap of human limitations.

Religions have retarded the progress of mankind. Religions have misled people through superstitious beliefs and practices. No religion had existed five thousand years ago, yet human race and society developed uninterrupted, for several million years without the support of religions and Gods. Whether religions exist or not, the fact remains that truth will continue to prevail without the help religions and Gods.

Humanism was the beginning of religious conviction. The existence of a God as a savior was simply a concept created to instill psychological fear in the minds of those who dared to drift away from social morals and civil responsibility. No one else, other then we, can save ourselves. It is our personal endeavor alone, which leads to salvation and not by the help of God the liberator of our souls or from a religious mass redemption.

People blindly follow religious commandments and are afraid to question its veracity. God's wrath and his punishment acts as a deterrent. Without understanding they pursue religious dictates, hoping God will reward them. This is the main reason, which makes them go after religious recompense, and surely not from a sense of religiousness. Only educated people can think independently and understand things in right perspective.

Human nature is fickle, it backtracks from goodness to badness rapidly, unbridled it can waver and fall from our higher spiritual self, to our lower animal self, and our animal instincts in turn are ever ready to rip apart the social order, as if geared mechanically to violate all norms of manmade morality. It is a fact that animal instincts are more powerful than all the moral lessons taught to tame them.

A state of 'Free-For-All' situation does not bring togetherness. It is fear that helps people to live together. Fear of extinction is a powerful biological instinct to survive. That is why

religious convictions were needed to train faith followers in past, but now its regulated by the court of law. The rule of law is punitive and not like any hallow holy holding except moral values society needs to share. To keep this sanctity alive, the role of spirituality cannot be undermined. Law and order bring social progress and spirituality an individual's inner progress.

This world is 'Maya' and we live in illusions. All knowledge, awareness and comprehension come from imagination. Imagination is misapprehension. Aren't we simply creating illusions to break away from illusions? When will the illusionist within us see reality as it is, and not the way we want to see it?

In past, we were scared of natural calamity, wild animals and evil spirit. Later, we realized that many of our past beliefs like spirits and angels were make-believe ideas of the human mind. Today we pay no attention to them. What we need to fear today, are the ruthless fundamentalist, who are out to destroy society and world peace by terror acts under the cover of religion and blind beliefs.

No species in the animal kingdom follows religion except nature. It is the human mind that has invented a religion, perhaps to subdue human selfishness and deceit or maybe to yield authority over others. It is difficult to change human nature. We don't need religion to change. We need to look into the nature of human mind.

We all need to practice universal ethics of righteousness for collective living and for the welfare and well being of each other. We need freedom of thought to carry out the most important study, on the deeper aspects of mind and consciousness, and the laws of nature. The aim of religion should be to awaken mankind to have an open and honest understanding of 'Life and Living' and not to dwell in the world of fantasies created by religions.

Religions have evolved by imagining the origin of the universe created by a supernatural being, and it revolves around the subject of soul as a separate entity, based wholly on speculative theories, which are neither verified nor verifiable, but a result of wayward thoughts. There is no reality behind them. Due to unreasonable theories and beliefs religions have created divisions

in the world. Even today, people are ready to lay down their life for fictional literature, based upon the story bound superheroes.

Believers read holy books as a part of a ritual, without understanding the language and its meaning, and defend the written words of the holy book, and even agree to give up their life for a celestial cause. The carnage in the name of religion has not stopped. In spite of people of being outraged, but hesitate to raise their voice against religion fearing reprisal. Knowing religions are responsible for destabilizing the social order, we should have the audacity to stand for what are right, even if alone, as it is essential to end terror campaigns.

Almost all religions talks about heaven and hell. Heaven is ruled by God. While Hell is under the control of evil forces. Earth is a place where good and evil is put on trial. Only from earth the believers can reach heaven through their righteous conduct or go to hell through their misconduct. Once in heaven all pleasures of life are placed before to enjoy. Every religion preaches that heaven is an imaginary place; it must be the ultimate abode, even if, the authors of religious books, did not know where exactly heaven and hell are.

Rigidity saps the strength of religion, educated people find it objectionable. They do not want to be dictated by static doctrines and rigid dogmas which oppose the natural rule to change. Inflexibility leads to restriction and limitations hinder the evolution of mankind. We need to educate people with the knowledge of life and living. Dwelling on fantasy and fiction is daydreaming but living real life a hardcore reality.

The reality of practical life depends on understanding, skillfulness, dexterousness, mellowness and maturity. Religion being speculative is the most incompatible channel for practical life. The need is to develop a reasonable mind, see ourselves and experience our life 'Here and now' and not rely blindly on what religions proclaim.

We should stop reading religious books, because it misleads, so be prepared to experience life face to face, and learn from personal understanding and experience. Don't seek affirmations in religious writings. Reality unfolds spontaneously by seeking genuinely. There are hidden invisible layers of cosmic dimensions,

revealed by subtle feelings untouched by reason, free floating from limitations of the mind to limitless cosmic dimensions.

Poverty is glorified by religions. Religions offer no solutions to eradicate poverty. Living in hunger, filth, squalor and ignorance is seen as a curse of divine dispensations based karma, this is to delude and deceive the downtrodden, to escape from harsh realities of life. Religions offer material comforts to the poor afterlife, while the Pope, Pundit and the Mullah enjoy comforts of wealth, collected from the destitute to live a life of luxury.

Religion has lost its spiritual essence. It has become commercial. Godmen are market and media created icons. They are spiritually and morally worthless third-rate cheats, who do not practice what they preach, but are smooth talkers and street smart. All Godmen painstakingly devote more time on their outward appearance to look holy, as media wants to focus on an individual who appears Godlike for more viewership.

Religion is inherited as a family legacy and few are fortunate to select the religion of their choice. When weird is desirable the usual becomes dull and boring. Religion is perverted, vulgarized and aimed to amplify the orthodox, superstitions, rituals, prayers and offerings. Therefore, we need to reorient the whole outlook of religion. Religious conviction should be looked at, from a position from where we can practice without guesswork.

To attain a particular state of spiritual mind, religion may or may not be helpful. For sure, in a freethinking state of mind, no religion is needed. Plain truth can hurt others, and half truth is undesirable. Our perception must not be far removed from truth or linked with religious beliefs. What we consider as a fact today can be proved wrong tomorrow. The human mind cannot draw a line beyond which reality does not exist. How superficial and hollow is to impose religious beliefs on people.

THE COMING EVENTS

CHAPTER 19

The Announcement

Heed How, the Host of Happening, Harps to Harmonize Humanity

SOLAR TIME CYCLE

Western astronomical calculations and eastern metaphysical systems affirm that the 'Dark Age' on planet earth has ended. The axis of present solar time cycle is orbiting a galactic center, from where creative forces from the cosmos emanate, influencing people living on planet earth. The present 'Solar Time Cycle' unfolds the 'Age of Awakening' advantageous for higher consciousness, wisdom and spiritual growth. Humanity is heading towards spiritual awakening which will eventually bring a complete 'Global Enlightenment' soon, through participatory 'Collective Consciousness'.

AQUARIAN AGE

Humanity is now living in the 'Aquarian Age'. The time when human values and spirituality will receive the biggest ever boost. The mighty quest for 'Spirituality' and 'God' will bring science and spirituality to a point from where 'A Global Humanitarian Society' will emerge, rendering maximum happiness for the greatest number of people, and allowing humanism to manifest in its full glory, for a greater and a better future for mankind.

GLOBAL ONENESS

Transit of Venus the morning star, the bringer of light, love, beauty and oneness, has crossed the disc of the Sun. This is a 130-year cycle. Every time this transit happens, it brings a new level of harmonization in the world. Old structures of human consciousness collapse, bringing to an end certain cycles of history, based on divisions, ushering the birth of the Golden age of 'Oneness'. This is the time of hope and evolutionary renewal, purification, and end of a period of human consciousness, which is conditioned by mental concepts of duality and divisions. Soon

a mass enlightenment of humanity will take place, opening the door to a 'Golden Age' of peace and prosperity.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Even, holy scriptures have recorded the coming of 'Kalki' avatar the Hindus await. The 'Shah Bahram Varjarand' the Zoroastrians awaits, 'Maitreya Buddha' the Buddhists await. The 'Lord of Hosts' the Jews await. Return of 'Christ' the Christians wait, and the universal 'Tirthankara' alluded in Jain Tradition, and the proclamation promised in the Quran. The writing on the wall is clear, therefore, a drastic change is evident. The aforesaid forecast predicts that a 'New Era' in human history has begun, the promise of a 'Golden Age', where all old systems, wrong beliefs and precepts will fail, followed by another, more appropriate and advantageous, for the growth and higher evolution of humanity.

THE AGE OF SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

By now human consciousness has passed through the age of obscurity, ending the age of 'Kali Yuga'. Humanity is on the threshold, ready to enter the new era of spiritual awakening. Gradual improvement is taking place in the thoughts, feelings, and acts of human beings, all over the world. This is the result of massive thought waves, coming from cosmic space to materialize, and transform the mindset of humanity, and to uplift human race to the next higher level of consciousness. This grand transformation is directly affecting people living on Earth, besides invading the whole Cosmos, as well.

A new way of life will see the light of the day, and rest on the principal foundation of oneness of humanity and oneness of world. All believers will unite, and put themselves in agreement with the principals of righteousness, compassion and love as the base of all beliefs. Wait something extraordinary is preparing itself on earth. A revolution that is grandiose and completely inconceivable is going to manifest soon. Cosmic forces have decided to redress earth. End of a bygone age has come. A new spiritual order will substitute the old religious order, in which, love will reign on planet earth.

New conditions will rejuvenate, purify and reconstruct the

old religious structures of the world, where religions will redefine themselves by universal spiritual values, where conditioned minds and hearts will liberate themselves from the darkness of lies and become luminous with the revelation of truth. Everything will be improved and elevated, and spiritual realities will finally consume and destroy all false religious beliefs.

PRESENT SCENARIO

Before the inauguration of a new age of spiritual awakening, the idea for religious reforms is already circulating in the world, from the source of cosmic consciousness to human consciousness. In which form it will manifest, through whom, and from which part of the world, and how, this no one knows. Those who are able to connect with the cause are conveying the urgency to the world, as its happening simultaneously, from various parts of the world. Author of this proposal too is doing exactly the same, as others are doing elsewhere in other parts of the world, telling people the time has come to reform religions.

Religions divide people and create conflicts. Religions are making news for all wrong reasons in the world, yet we tend to ignore sinful acts, and heinous crimes, perpetuated by fanatics in garb of religions, and regard these unlawful acts as holy. In fact, religions have frightened the world, by terror campaigns, threatening world peace, destabilizing the social order, and the progress of mankind. Are we so naïve that we cannot see humanity as one family, and all nations as one global village, and follow spiritual values, and not medieval age religions, time has come, to make the world Religionless.

Consciousness is the everlasting essence, which pervades the whole cosmos, and 'Laws of Nature' govern this cosmic force, discernible by spiritual knowledge and not by any religion. Since all human beings are spiritual beings, so they are governed by spiritual values, not by man-made redundant rigid religions. Therefore, time has come to 'Change' the false 'Religious Mindset' of the people, to a real 'Spiritual Mindset' for the higher growth, and progress of the human race.

THE CHANGE-MAKERS

We live in the world of assembled thoughts. Noble thoughts

come to us from cosmic consciousness. The evolution of human mind and the influence of cosmic consciousness is a never-ending, it's an ongoing process. Thoughts never pass away in oblivion. We all are thought-centric. The world is made of thoughts, waiting to enter in the mind of enthusiastic people, to manifest them on ground reality. Thoughts are beyond race, nationality and time, which thought will take what shape, depends on unseen forces, difficult to comprehend.

Thoughts fuse freely. There is no end from which direction, or dimension of space thoughts come, we do not know. But, we do know that 2500 years ago in India, China, Greece and other civilized countries, great thinkers were born, namely the Buddha, Socrates and Confucius. There was a striking similarity in their line of thought, which changed the way the whole world thought, contemplated and deliberated, a great transformation had occurred, quite hard to explain. How?

Now a similar 'Line of Thought' is seen emerging, from the cycle of current time, about to take full circle, triggered by cosmic consciousness, not yet identified by the people and the world. Difference between then and now is that, in the turn of present time, the collective voice of 'Commoners' like 'you' and 'me' will be heard, backed by some visionary Global Leader(s), who will surprise the world, by supporting the forces of 'Oneness', and establish a grand change, never seen before. In past, when organized religions mushroomed, truth was revealed by the assumptions of the authors of Holy Books, who creating false beliefs. Now reason and spiritual realities will define the truth, fostering 'Oneness' and 'Brotherhood'. The whole world will never be the same again.

The coming events cast their shadows before, so cosmic forces are poised to herald a great future for humanity. The spadework has begun. This book is a step in that direction. World will not be the same as it was in the past, anymore. A complete new understanding has arrived, present world order will collapse. Far-reaching changes are in the offing. Universal spiritual values will emerge as the 'Global Philosophy' that will replace all fragmented faiths of the world. All separate nations will cease to exist. World will become 'One' with no army, no weapons, and

no wars. World will have one government, one global leader, one global currency, one global citizenship, with the establishment of a 'War-less Welfare World'.

SURESH KUMAR SONI

An ex-Banker
A truth seeker
Leading a retired life
Dabbles in philosophy
Receptive to idealism and pacifism
Claims to have read the 'Holy Books' of all religions
Is disillusioned by assumptions and abstractions in religions
Feels religions have exceeded its brief
And have overstepped its limits
And have lost its original message, purpose and goal

Having failed to keep pace with time
He treats religions as remnant of a redundant age
But accepts the religious idiom
Of God, Allah and Ishwar
As a signet of cosmic consciousness
Full of subtleties reason knows nothing of
A source both of affection and rejection

Seeing that a majority of people are sedated by religions
Feels that reforms in religions is imperative
For world peace, freedom, equality and tolerance
He considers 'Spirituality' is the mirror of truth
And 'Religions' a distortion of reality

He assumes to break new ground
By replacing all religions by
'SATYA DHARMA'
The epicenter of spiritual values
The Soul of all religions